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NO 7194 SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1988 RAJAB 24, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

Hussein in Cairo talks

CAIRO, March 11. (Agencies): Jordan's King Hussein discussed the latest US Middle East peace proposals with Egypt's President Mubarak today.

The king, who regularly consults with Mubarak on Middle East affairs, has already sounded out leaders of Syria, Iraq and Kuwait on Washington's peace plan.

Jordanian newspapers said the King was seeking a united Arab stand before regional leaders gave their responses to Washington by mid-March.

Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had a second round of talks yesterday evening in Damascus covering Washington's new Middle East peace plan.

GCC linked by car-to-car phones

ABU DHABI, March 11. (Reuters): Travellers in all six GCC states will be able to phone car-to-car under a new scheme to unify electronic links.

GCC ministers of telecommunications told reporters after they met in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday that they had agreed to install a linked network of cables and microwave transmitters between Kuwait, Bahrain and Dammam in Saudi Arabia.

The ministers said experts would aim to unify existing national networks to keep the cost of the link-up as low as possible.

Train accident

LOT, Belgium, March 11. (AP): A train derailed today in this town just south of Brussels, killing one passenger and injuring more than 20 others, some seriously, officials said.

Belgian railway spokesman Louis Gilliaux said "five to six people were badly injured and about 20 suffered minor injuries." The injured were taken to several hospitals in the area.

He did not have the identity of the fatality.

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ایران عراق میں شہر کی جنگ بندی گئی
مقبوضہ علاقوں میں شہر کی ناکہ بندی
سوویت یونین نے افغانستان پر امریکی مطالبہ مسترد کر دیا
سری لنکا میں فحش پوشش کے حملے میں 19 افراد ہلاک
پاکستان کرکٹ کی عالمی ٹیچہ چیمپئن شپ کے فائنل میں بھارت کا ٹھٹھا
لاہور ٹائمز کے پوٹریٹ

WEATHER

CLOUDS will increase with light to moderate southeasterly wind and a chance for scattered rain.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 7.60 am, 4.30 pm
Low water: 11.00 am, 11.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.02 am
Sunset: 5.45 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 28°C 72°F
Abu Dhabi: 21°C 70°F
Falkland: 21°C 70°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Abu Dhabi: 22°C 72°F
Falkland: 22°C 72°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 11°C 52°F
Abu Dhabi: 13°C 55°F
Falkland: 13°C 55°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 25 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 75 per cent
Falkland: 75 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 40 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 75 per cent
Falkland: 80 per cent

Sheikh Zayed warns Iran

Kuwait might seek foreign protection



Sheikh Zayed

ABU DHABI, March 11. (Agencies): The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, said in an interview published in Cairo that Kuwait might seek foreign military protection if it came under more pressure from Iran.

Diplomatic analysts said the remarks by Sheikh Zayed who has led efforts to ease tensions between Gulf Arab states and Iran, could be seen as a warning to Tehran to tread carefully.

"If Kuwait faces more pressure from Iran it may seek more than the protection of its tankers, it may seek protection of its territory and waters," Zayed said in an interview with Al-Mussawir weekly magazine.

"Instead of flying the flag of a foreign country on its ships only, it may want the protection of the entire state," he said.

Kuwait, within earshot of the Iran-Iraq war front, obtained US escort for 11 tankers refueled under the Stars and Stripes in the face of Iranian threats last year.

Sheikh Zayed, however, rejected a Soviet proposal to deploy a UN naval force to protect commercial shipping in the Gulf.

"I don't want the United Nations or any foreigners to protect us," he said.

In the wide-ranging interview, Sheikh Zayed warned that the United States risks losing the support of its Arab friends and allies because of its pro-Israeli Middle East policy.

He accused the US administration of being biased toward Israel in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"With such a policy, the Americans have become Israelis," he was quoted as saying. "Whatever is said by Israel is repeated by the United States."

"What could America expect of its friends if it needed them tomorrow? Should it not deal with them today in all fairness and justice while at the pinnacle of its strength?" he added.

Calling for the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, Zayed said he backed a proposal for an emergency Arab summit to support the uprising which erupted on Dec 9 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Zayed said there should be no attempt to stop the unrest in Israeli-occupied territories.

"The protests must continue until Palestinians achieve their goal of self-determination," he said.

He said Palestinian leaders (Continued on Page 5)

Mideast peace efforts

Shultz outlines plan

WASHINGTON, March 11. (Agencies): US Secretary of State George Shultz has outlined for the first time in public his plan for Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, calling it the only proposal under consideration by all parties involved.

Shultz, testifying before a congressional committee, also indicated that the United States would continue to push the plan even if Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir rejects it when he visits Washington next week.

"People have looked at our ideas, and while nobody is saying yes, nobody wants to say no, because it's the only game in town," Shultz said.

Shamir has said he opposes the Shultz plan because it sets a timetable for negotiations between Israel and the Arabs on the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shultz said the United States feels "time is a wasting" and

wants talks to begin by May 1 between Israel and any Arab countries wishing to participate, under the auspices of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"We proposed that this conference initiate these bilateral negotiations, that it be a body that can receive reports from the parties on the status of their negotiations, but that... the conference will not be able to impose solutions or veto agreements reached," he said.

Shultz did not insist as he has in the past that the Soviets could only participate if they resumed the diplomatic ties they broke with Israel in 1967.

In the plan he presented to Israeli and Arab leaders last week, Shultz stipulated that all the participants must recognise UN resolutions 242 and 338. Those measures call for Israel to return lands it captured from the Arabs in the 1967 Mideast war in

return for recognition of the Jewish state's right to exist.

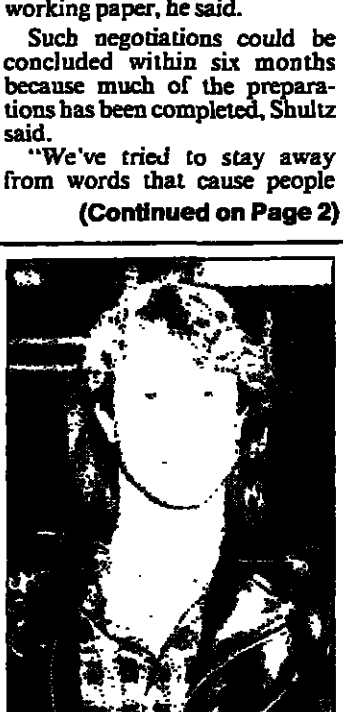
Under the plan, the Palestinians will be represented by a joint delegation with Jordan, Shultz said.

"Palestinians must be represented, and we believe the right way for them to be represented, and the most fruitful way, is to be part of a Jordanian delegation," he said. "Jordan's view is that that is the desirable way to go."

The initial negotiations would address "transitional arrangements" for three years of Palestinian self-rule, Shultz said. The United States would present a draft proposal as a preliminary working paper, he said.

Such negotiations could be concluded within six months because much of the preparations has been completed, Shultz said.

"We've tried to stay away from words that cause people (Continued on Page 2)



Andy Gibb is dead

LONDON, March 11. (Reuters): Pop singer Andy Gibb, whose three older brothers make up the Bee Gees vocal group, died in a British hospital yesterday aged 30, his record company said.

It did not specify the cause of death but said he had been admitted to hospital in the county of Oxfordshire, north-west of London, to be operated on for stomach pains.

Gibb was known for his crooning, high-pitched ballads and had a series of top solo hits since 1977 including "I Just Wanna Be Your Everything," "Everlasting Love," "Shadow Dancing," and "Our Love. Don't Throw it All Away."

Three years ago, he entered the Betty Ford Clinic in the United States for treatment of a cocaine problem.

He said in interviews in 1982 that he turned to cocaine after he and actress Victoria Principal, who starred in the hit American television series "Dallas" ended a long relationship.

Island Records said Gibb had signed a contract with them two months ago.



US determined to close PLO mission in UN

UNITED NATIONS, March 11. (Reuters): The United States will close the Palestine Liberation Organisation's UN mission, regardless of any treaty obligation to the world body, the US delegate Herbert Okun announced today.

Okun informed Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the decision in a letter that he delivered personally prior to an expected announcement by the Justice Department in Washington.

If the PLO did not comply, he said, US Attorney General Edwin Meese would initiate legal action to close the mission on or about March 21, the deadline set in "anti-terrorism" legislation enacted by the Congress last year.

At a special meeting of the UN General Assembly last week, the case was referred to the World Court to determine whether the United States is obliged to accept binding arbitration.

Egyptians freed
CAIRO, March 11. (UPI): Libya has released 33 imprisoned Egyptians and allowed them to cross into Egypt on foot, the opposition newspaper Al Wafd reported today.

UK pound notes withdrawn
LONDON, March 11. (Reuters): The British Treasury withdrew its pound banknote from active service today — nearly 200 years after introducing it to conserve gold for a war effort.

Pound coins, introduced in 1983 and now widely in use, will replace pound notes which were first printed in 1797.

The notes will no longer be accepted as legal tender in shops but can still be exchanged at banks.

Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger introduced the pound note when he feared an invasion was imminent by France's Napoleon Bonaparte.

Avalanche hits ski group

Prince Charles escapes death

KLOSTERS, Switzerland, March 11. (Agencies): Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, narrowly escaped death yesterday when an avalanche hit his skiing group after it strayed, unguided, from the marked slopes near this picturesque Swiss village, local officials said.

Major Hugh Lindsay was killed in the avalanche.

Charles' quick rescue efforts helped save the life of a skiing companion after the avalanche buried her and killed another member of the royal party, a doctor said today.

Charles and others dug out Patricia Palmer-Tomkinson, a friend of the Prince, after the skiing tragedy near this Swiss resort.

"They were so fast that they dug her out in a few minutes and I

Kuwait raises its stake to 21.28pc in BP

LONDON, March 11. (Agencies): The Kuwait Investment Office has increased its holding in Britain's largest company, British Petroleum (BP) to 21.28 per cent, from 19.53 per cent, KIO confirmed here today.

The Kuwait government agency here pointed out that it will be increasing in future its stake in the world's third biggest oil company to 22.5 per cent. But it pledged to stop buying when it reaches this target.

Analysts said the KIO had now clearly breached the 20 per cent level which appeared acceptable to both BP and the UK government. It now remains to be seen whether the situation will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Government officials had no immediate comment, but they noted that the last ministerial statement on the matter came from Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young on Jan 20.

Young said then that the KIO stake in BP was being considered by the Office of Fair Trading which advises the trade department on mergers. OFT officials today were not immediately available. (See page 12).

Dominated
HUNG, 75, number two in the 14-man ruling Politburo, had only held the premiership since last June 18. No other southerner in a party dominated by northern Vietnamese had held so high a post.

Western diplomats here, who monitor Vietnamese affairs, said Hung's death was not expected to lead to significant changes in South-East Asia's leading military power, and one of the world's poorest nations.

Debate over Hung's successor is expected to pit reformists, who since December, 1986, have been introducing pragmatic economic

Tenuous truce

Iraq, Iran halt war of cities

NICOSIA, March 11. (Agencies): Iran said this evening its war of the cities with Iraq had ended.

A war spokesman quoted by Tehran Radio said Iran had halted reprisal attacks on Iraq after Baghdad ended its air and missile raids on Iranian cities.

Iraq had set a truce deadline of 1300 GMT today for a halt to the tit-for-tat strikes in which hundreds of civilians had been killed or wounded over the past two weeks.

Right
Baghdad had set five conditions, including the right to strike the last blow. It kept up its missile and air attacks into the final minutes before the deadline, firing 11 missiles at Tehran and Qom during the day and sending its bombers to blitz Iranian centres.

The last Iraqi missile was launched at Tehran only 16 minutes before the deadline.

Iran earlier said it would halt its bombardments of Iraqi cities from 1330 GMT yesterday if Iraq reciprocated. The Iranians fired two missiles at Baghdad three hours after yesterday's deadline following heavy Iraqi air raids.

Both sides threatened to resume their deadly missile due if either one broke the unofficial truce.

Covered
An Iraqi high command communique, issued a few minutes after Baghdad's announced ceasefire came into effect, called on Iran's leaders to adhere to the truce or "they will have chosen the path of complete destruction."

It demanded Iran accept five conditions Baghdad announced yesterday or the war of the cities would resume.

The conditions included an end to "aggression" on Iraq's international border and any further strikes on civilian areas.

One covered the need to differentiate between residential areas and economic facilities used to feed Iran's war machine, which Iraq said were legitimate targets.

The latest war of the cities started after Iraqi bombers attacked an oil refinery on the outskirts of Tehran on Feb 27, followed by air raids on three other cities.

Iran hit back two days later with missile strikes on Baghdad, setting off a deadly series of rocket exchanges.

Iraq's UN envoy told the Secretary-General on Friday that Iraq was observing a ceasefire in its "war of the cities" with Iran and it was still in force two hours after Iraq's previously announced deadline.

Iraq launched 70 missiles against Tehran, Qom and Esfahan, including 11 between two am and 3:44 pm on Thursday. Iran fired 31 missiles into Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

Iraq also used its superior air power to carry out a series of heavy raids on cities and towns in Iran, while Iranian gunners shelled Iraqi centres along the 1,200 km (750 mile) border.

Each side said casualties were heavy. Iranian reports over the past two weeks spoke of at least 300 civilians killed and well over 1,000 injured. Iraq did not give figures.

Both sides apparently used (Continued on Page 5)

Vietnamese premier dies of heart failure

BANGKOK, March 11. (Reuters): Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Hung, the oldest of Vietnam's serving communist leaders, died in Ho Chi Minh city yesterday of a heart attack, state radio said today.

A terse official announcement, monitored here, said: "He died of a sudden heart attack while working under stress to solve the country's many problems" in the former southern capital once known as Saigon and other southern provinces.

The radio gave no other details of his death nor did it name any successor.

Problems
Hung was known to have had health problems for some time and had received medical treatment in the Soviet Union in recent years. At the time of this appointment to the premiership last year he appeared frail and walked in a weak shuffle.

Hanoi-based diplomats suggested at that time that Vietnam's leadership did not expect him to serve long as premier because of his poor health.

The radio said preparations had begun for national mourning ceremonies, which would be held from March 13 to 15.

Hung was only the third premier Hanoi had known since the communist state was founded in 1945 by Ho Chi Minh. His predecessor was Pham Van Dong, who retired last year aged 81.



Prince Charles

above and carried two members about 400 metres (yards) downhill.

The Swiss Federal Avalanche Research Institute had warned yesterday of avalanche danger above 1,600 metres (5,250 feet) altitude in the region. The party was skiing at about 1,800 metres (5,900 feet).

INTERNATIONAL

9 killed in shoot-out with musician family

Fuel shortage prevented hijacked plane from reaching West

MOSCOW, March 11. (Reuters): The pilot of a Soviet airliner hijacked by a jazz-band family was quoted today as saying that only a shortage of fuel prevented him from carrying out their demand to fly to the West.

Nine people died in a shoot-out between the hijackers armed with sawn-off shotguns and security forces who stormed the TU-154 plane at a military airfield near Leningrad on Tuesday.

Pilot V. Kupriyanov told the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya: "In order not to expose the passengers to risk, we decided to carry out the demands of the hijackers and fly abroad... but the nearer we got to Leningrad, the clearer it became that we would not make it to the nearest Finnish or Swedish airfield."

He said the plane had taken off from the Siberian city of Irkutsk with only enough fuel to reach Leningrad, or an alternative airfield at Tallinn, the capital of Soviet Estonia.

With fuel running low, the pilot received instructions to land at the military airfield near Leningrad, where the hijacking ended with the storming of the plane.

The dead included a stewardess, three passengers and five of the 11 hijackers. Twenty passengers and four members of the assault team were injured.

Accounts vary as to how the bloody drama was concluded. The daily Izvestia said yesterday that the hijackers, who included a mother and her seven sons known as the "Seven Simeons", fired their first shots after seeing soldiers running towards the plane as it landed.

But a Leningrad police colonel told Moscow television that there had been several hours of negotiations with the hijackers before the plane was stormed.

The Communist Party daily Pravda said today that "negotiations with the bandits lasted about two hours."

"When the first shots were heard from aboard the plane, the order was given: 'Disarm the terrorists!'"

Pravda also gave an explanation of how the Ovechkin family managed to smuggle guns aboard the plane. Earlier reports said the weapons were hidden in their instrument cases, but did not explain how they evaded detection by the airport X-ray machine.

Anaesthesia for circumcision

CHICAGO, March 11. (AP): Circumcision is a painful, traumatic experience for virtually all male infants because doctors usually perform it without anaesthesia, rejecting research that their tiny patients feel pain, a new study concludes.

"I guess it's custom and customs die hard," said Dr Howard Stang, a Minneapolis pediatrician and one of the five authors of a study in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"The sad thing is that the law requires anaesthesia, for example, to have anaesthesia before surgery," he added, "but we don't extend that same humanity to our own kids."

Stang and his colleagues estimate that between 60 per cent and 80 per cent of the male infants born in the United States are circumcised within days of their births, and that virtually all of those children are circumcised without anaesthesia.

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Kemp and Hart withdraw

Dole fights to keep Bush from runaway win

CHICAGO, March 11. (Agencies): Senate minority leader Robert Dole, admitting to an uphill battle but pledging not to quit, fought today to stop Vice President George Bush from running away with the Republican presidential nomination.

Decided
On the Democratic side former Senator Gary Hart was poised to abandon his four-year, scandal-scarred pursuit of the presidency, reducing the field in his party to five contenders.

With next Tuesday's Illinois primary the next election bat-

tleground, Dole's strategists withdrew his advertising from television stations in the state and looked for a publicity formula that would work.

Dole denied rumours that he had decided to quit. "Bob Dole is no dropout," he said. "I'm in this one to win."

But at a campaign stop on Thursday the Kansas lawmaker admitted that Bush has "about a two to one margin" in delegates who will select his party's nominee this summer.

"It's still a steep hill to climb," he added.

Dole's aides called the end to

TV advertising in Illinois a temporary measure designed to give them a chance to see how to spend their money most effectively.

They also confirmed Dole had trimmed his staff, but said the cuts occurred in states where elections have already taken place.

While Dole battled to keep his campaign alive, the Democratic party's presidential contenders were about to see their ranks thinned by the expected withdrawal of Hart.

Hart quit the 1988 Democratic presidential race today for the

second time, ending a three-month comeback attempt in which he was soundly rejected by the voters.

"I said I wanted them (the people) to decide about my candidacy. I got a fair hearing and the people have decided. Now I clearly should not go forward," Hart said at a news conference in Denver.

He had suffered a series of last-place finishes when the voting began in primaries and caucuses this year.

Hart was not present late on Thursday night when the five other Democratic contenders

took the stage in Chicago for another in their lengthy series of debates and forums.

The televised meeting, which largely featured questions from the audience, was long on campaign pledges but short on confrontation.

Congressman Jack Kemp of New York ended his presidential bid yesterday and said the idea of being the Republican candidate for Vice President was "a very flattering and awesome thought." Kemp declined to endorse any of the surviving candidates — Bush, Dole and Pat Robertson.

19 killed in two days of Sikh violence

AMRITSAR, March 11. (AP): Despite efforts by the Indian government to give militant Sikhs a freer hand in trying to resolve Punjab state's problems, at least 19 people have been killed in the troubled state in two days.

Sikh gunmen killed three Sikh policemen standing guard outside a high school where examinations were underway yesterday in the village of Dari Wala, Amritsar district police chief Mohammed Ishaq Alam said.

Two people died in the village of Mehampur early yesterday when Sikh gunmen sprayed the sleeping village with gunfire, the United News of India reported. The identity of the victims was not immediately available.

Dari Wala and Mehampur are near the town of Mehta, 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Amritsar.

On Wednesday, seven people were killed by Sikh extremists in the Amritsar district. Seven other deaths were reported in the state, including police slayings of two suspected extremists in shootouts.

The deaths came as militant Sikhs on Wednesday installed Jasbir Singh Rodhe as chief priest at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the shrine is Sikhism's holiest, and Rodhe holds the top seat of temporal power.

Rodhe had been released from jail by the federal government last Friday. He had been held since 1985 on accusations of sedition but was never tried.



Jasbir Singh Rodhe (right) being installed as the head of the Akal Takht by Purn Singh, priest of the Golden Temple in Amritsar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops keep control over riot-hit Soviet town

MOSCOW, March 11. (Reuters): Soviet tanks and steel-helmeted soldiers were keeping tight control over a stunned population in Sumgait 10 days after bloody ethnic riots in the Caspian Sea town, an eyewitness said today.

Andrei Shilkov, a member of the "glasnost" independent publishing collective in Moscow, told reporters he spent about six hours in Sumgait on Wednesday.

Soviet officials say 32 people died in violence between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in Sumgait on Feb 28.

Shilkov said the handful of residents he talked to on the streets of Sumgait asserted the violence was much worse, but he acknowledged he saw no direct evidence to confirm this.

"The stories are terrible. There was no ethnic conflict there — it

was a bloodbath, a real pogrom," he declared. "Armenians were sought out and indiscriminately killed."

Shilkov said he arrived in Sumgait, an industrial centre north of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, from the Armenian capital of Yerevan by plane, bus and taxi, finally hitching a ride with a local car to enter the sealed town.

"Never in my life did I see such a massive concentration of troops in bullet-proof vests and steel helmets," he said.

Shilkov said he counted 47 light tanks in a single side street and displayed a photograph showing two armoured personnel carriers, which he said he had taken from a moving car. He said taking photographs had been banned in the town.

Royalties from Peter Pan may go on forever

LONDON, March 11. (AP): Royalties from the classic children's tale "Peter Pan" should, like the book's hero, go on forever, the House of Lords decided yesterday.

The unelected upper chamber of Britain's Parliament decided to amend copyright laws so that the 50-year expiry rule on royalties will not apply to the story about the boy who wouldn't grow up.

It must still be approved by the House of Commons before becoming law.

Author J. M. Barrie bequeathed royalties from the book, stage and film performances of "Peter Pan" to the world-renowned Great Ormond Street hospital for sick children.

But the copyright expired Dec 31 after the maximum 50 years, just as the 146-year-old hospital launched a drive to raise 30 million pounds (\$55.2 million) for renovations.

Former Prime Minister James Callaghan introduced an amendment to the copyright, designs and patent act making Barrie's bequest permanent.

"I doubt whether any parents or grandparents who take their children or grandchildren to see a performance of Peter Pan would begrudge it, knowing something was going to the great Ormond Street Hospital," Callaghan said in the House of Lords yesterday.

Noriega seeks Libyan support against US

LONDON, March 11. (AP): Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega has asked for Libyan backing against "American military aggression and economic threats," Libyan television reported last night.

The report said: "During the telephone conversation, Gen. Noriega asked the brother leader (Kaddafi) for the support of the great Jamahiriyah (Libya) for the Panamanian people, and its backing for Panama against the American military aggression and economic threats which are directed against Panama."

Councilmen killed

NAPLES, March 11. (AP): Two town councilmen in nearby Afragola were shot to death when their car was ambushed as they drove home from a council meeting, police reported today.



Shelbayya
Student chosen Miss Egypt

CAIRO, March 11. (AP): An auburn-haired student from Cairo University was chosen Miss Egypt 1988 early today.

A seven-judge panel, six men and a woman, awarded the crown to Amina Samy Shelbayya, 20, who competed among a dozen Egyptian women to represent the country in this year's Miss Universe pageant in Taiwan's capital Taipei.

The contest organiser, American television producer Marie Frances, joined Hoda Abboud, the 1987 titleholder, in crowning Miss Shelbayya.

Last year's competition was the first held in Egypt since beauty contests were abandoned in the early 1960s. Miss Shelbayya will be the only representative of an Arab country in the Miss Universe pageant.

Miss Abboud, a model from the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, participated in last year's pageant at Singapore but did not make it to the semifinals.

McFarlane

WASHINGTON, March 11. (Reuters): President Reagan's former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane will plead guilty today to withholding information from Congress in a deal with the Iran-Contra special prosecutor, sources close to the investigation said.

They said McFarlane, the White House National Security aide from Oct 1983 until Dec 1985, will plead guilty to four counts of withholding key information from Congress on the US efforts to support the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

Shultz outlines plan

(Continued from Page 1)

problems, and perhaps the word, 'transitional arrangements' is satisfactory," Shultz said. "At least nobody balked at it."

The transitional arrangement could be put into place within three months after the end of the negotiations. Immediately following the six-month negotiations, the sides would begin year-long talks on the final status of the territories, he said.

"I believe the theory that people can feel more comfortable possibly in making decisions about final status if they see in place transitional arrangements that are working," he said.

Shamir has said he might propose granting Palestinians self-rule in small areas of the occupied territories, but that negotiations on a final settlement should not take place until the self-rule plan proves successful.

Attacked
In an interview with the independent Israeli daily Haaretz Shamir attacked the Shultz plan.

"The document is unwieldy, clumsy, imposing the shortest of timetables and containing nothing to assure the peace or security of Israel," he said.

Labour Party leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Shamir's coalition partner and political opponent, told Israel radio the prime minister was being unrealistic.

"The same letter Mr Shultz gave us was also given to the Arabs, and even if Shamir can convince Shultz he then has to convince the other sides," Peres said.

President Reagan said yesterday "a great element" of Israel's coalition government supports the US Middle East peace plan and that he will urge Shamir to drop his objections to it.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy today briefed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Shultz's Middle East peace mission, the official news agency Tass said.

But the report said differences remained in the superpowers' approaches to the Middle East problem after the talks in Moscow.

The European Parliament yesterday condemned Israel for its "continuing violent and brutal repression" of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Goria resigns

ROME, March 11. (Reuters): Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria today announced his resignation to a cabinet meeting, officials said.

Goria, who heads Italy's 47th government since the Second World War, had gone immediately to hand his resignation to President Francesco Cossiga, they added.

Goria, who heads Italy's 47th government since the Second World War, had gone immediately to hand his resignation to President Francesco Cossiga, they added.

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Iran, Kabul chastised for human rights violations

UN commission condemns Israel

GENEVA, March 11, (AP): The UN human rights commission has adopted resolutions condemning Israel, Iran and Afghanistan for human rights violations.

A resolution strongly condemned Israel's persistence in violating human rights manifested in acts of aggression, bombardments of civilian populations, detentions and other arbitrary practices.

The vote was 26-1, with 15 abstentions. The United States cast the dissenting vote.

The resolution expresses grave concern at "the continuation of the acts of aggression and the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon which constitute a flagrant violation" of inter-

national law.

It calls upon Israel to immediately stop such actions, and calls on governments which provide political, economic and military aid to Israel to pressure the government to end "its aggressive and expansionist policy in southern Lebanon."

The commission, on the penultimate day of its annual session, also adopted a resolution expressing "deep concern about the numerous and detailed allegations of grave human rights violations in Iran. The vote was 20-4, with 15 abstentions.

The resolution referred to a report by the commission's special rapporteur, Salvadoran jurist Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, which cites allegations of torture, arbitrary arrests, unfair trials

and religious persecution in Iran.

It expresses "deep concern" at allegations that torture and maltreatment "are common in Iranian prisons during interrogation and before and after the final verdict."

The resolution renews the mandate of the special rapporteur for another year, and urges Iran to answer his requests for information and to allow him to visit the country, which it has refused to do so far.

The commission expressed distress and alarm over allegations of human rights violations in Soviet-backed Afghanistan, including interrogation and killing of political prisoners.

The commission adopted a resolution which said: "The Afghan authorities, with heavy

support from foreign troops, are acting with great severity against their opponents and suspected opponents."

The resolution voiced "deep concern that there are still reliable reports of torture under interrogation and killing of political prisoners."

It also expressed "deep distress and continuing alarm that the special rapporteur continues to report violations of the right to life, liberty and security of person as well as of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement and freedom of association."

The UN commission adopted the resolution by a vote of 29 for, seven against, and six abstentions. Mozambique was not present for the vote.

Suharto sworn in for fifth term



Suharto: president

strategic command -- on March 11, 1966.

Suharto was first formally elected President in 1968.

The new cabinet, expected to be formed later this month, will face a hefty national debt equivalent to \$42.1 billion.

Indonesia has to set aside \$6.4 billion, or nearly one-third of its total budget of \$17.5 billion, to pay its loan installment for fiscal 1988.

Suharto crushed an unprecedented two-man race for the vice presidency today, forcing opposition leader Jai Naro to withdraw from the election by threatening to exercise his power to veto any candidate.

The move cleared the way for the nation's highest legislative body to elect Suharto's hand-picked candidate by acclamation.

State secretary Sudharmono, 60, a longtime Suharto ally was confirmed as Vice President shortly after Naro withdrew.

JAKARTA, March 11. (Agencies): President Suharto entered his fifth five-year term today, the 22nd anniversary of his taking power in the south Pacific island nation of 170 million people.

Suharto, the only candidate, was unanimously elected a day earlier by the People's Consultative Assembly, a 1,000-member body whose responsibilities are to nominate and elect the President and establish policy guidelines.

He is expected to form a new cabinet later this month.

Suharto, in an address to the National Assembly, said economic issues are among the major problems for Indonesia, an oil-producing nation badly hit by the global slump in petroleum prices.

Suharto came to power after leading troops in smashing a communist coup attempt in 1965. President Sukarno, who has accommodated the Communist Party of Indonesia in many of his policies, remained in office after the coup, but his support eroded to the point where he handed over most of his significant powers to Suharto -- then the head of the Army's

All sides in Afghan talks harden Stands

GENEVA, March 11. (Reuters): UN mediator Diego Cordovez today urged Afghan and Pakistani delegations to Afghan peace talks to seek clearer mandates from their governments as a way of breaking an apparent deadlock on key issues.

"I have now asked both of them to please come back on Monday with strengthened instructions," Cordovez said after brief separate meetings with the two sides.

The talks seek to secure the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

They are stalemated over Pakistan's insistence that a new government replace the Soviet-backed administration and on a US

demand that the Soviet Union ends military supplies.

All sides have appeared to harden their positions during the second week of talks. One source close to the talks described the mood as bad, with each side trying to shift responsibility for the apparent lack of progress.

Officially the talks are only between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which has well-armed guerrilla bases and some three million Afghan refugees on its soil. But the role of the superpowers has increased.

Moscow and Kabul accuse Pakistan of introducing new issues by asking for a new government to replace the present Afghan regime and are clearly hoping it will back down.

Aquino unlikely to run again

MANILA, March 11. (AP): President Corason Aquino has said she has no plans to seek reelection when her term expires in June 1992.

"I don't think so," Aquino said when asked if she was considering a second term. She added: "I have never had political ambitions."

Aquino made the remark to reporters amid speculation that the president would seek reelection, using a technicality in the new constitution.

The constitution, drafted by an Aquino-appointed commission and approved in a plebiscite last year, limits the president and vice president to one six-year term.

But the so-called "transitory provisions" also state that the first regular elections for president under the new charter will be held on the second Monday of May 1992.

Transitory provisions are temporary measures written into the constitution to ease the transition from one form of government to another.

Some political observers and Aquino supporters have interpreted the wording of the transitory provision to mean Aquino is not bound by the one-term limit.

Bangladesh rescues women from traffickers

DHAKA, March 11. (Reuters): Hundreds of women and children are being smuggled out of Bangladesh to be sold as prostitutes and as the source material for organ transplants.

The Bangladesh Rifles, the border force that has been placed on maximum alert to stop the trade, has rescued more than 120 women and children and arrested at least 12 traffickers in the past fortnight, officials said today.

Arrested traffickers told police most of the children, who were to be sold in India for about \$60, would be killed and their kidneys sold for transplants.

The women, lured by promises of jobs, were destined for sale at between \$30 and \$100 each to brothel operators in India or Pakistan or even farther away.

The last group of 28 women and children was saved on Thursday as they were being taken to India through Bangladesh's northern border.

One of the rescued young woman, Joytsna Sarkar, 18, told police she left home after an employment agent promised her a well-paid job in India or Pakistan.

"I believed him, but now I real-

China arrests 'living Buddha'

BEIJING, March 11. (UPI): Authorities in Tibet have arrested a senior religious official known as a "living Buddha" and two young men in what may signal a crackdown following renewed anti-Chinese unrest in the Himalayan region, an official report said today.

The three were charged for their roles in the recent outbreak of unrest in Tibet last October, but they were the first officially

reported arrested after the latest violent demonstration March 5, in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa.

Since last weekend's rioting, in which nine people were reported killed, signs of an impending sharp crackdown have emerged, including warnings by Tibetan officials loyal to Beijing that authorities were too lenient following the October unrest.

Western sources in Lhasa said there have been unofficial

reports of hundreds of arrests since a demonstration by monks demanding an end to Chinese rule in the region touched off the rioting.

The China News Service said Yuluo Dawaciren, 59, an official of the Lhasa Buddhist Association and the fifth reincarnation of a "living Buddha," was charged Wednesday with "stringing up" a protest last Oct. 1.

India to defend Siachen glacier

NEW DELHI, March 11. (AP): Defence Minister K. C. Pant told parliament yesterday that India was prepared to meet any threat from Pakistan and defend the Siachen glacier, a disputed Himalayan ridge claimed by both countries.

The statement was in response to a similar claim by Pakistani President Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq that Siachen was part of Pakistan and his troops were engaged in a "holy war."

There have been several border clashes between Indian and Pakistani troops over the past two years in the uninhabitable Siachen region.

The glacier is on a cease-fire line supervised by the United Nations. The line was created after Pakistan invaded Kashmir in 1948 and occupied one-third of the state's territory. India retains the rest.

Gunmen kill 18 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, March 11. (Agencies): Masked gunmen attacked a bus in north-central Sri Lanka today killing at least 18 passengers, military officials said.

They said the attackers threw bombs and shot the passengers before setting the bus on fire on the main road in Horopathana, Anuradhapura district.

Military officials in Trincomalee said most of the dead were minority Tamils. At least six injured were rushed to the Anuradhapura hospital.

Officials said they did not know who was responsible for the attack which follows a spate of civilian killings by Tamil rebels in Trincomalee last week.

Local reporters who spoke to a survivor at Anuradhapura said about 15 men wearing masks were armed with guns and swords.

"I saw four of them throw bombs at the bus and the driver was killed first. I saw some of the passengers falling," survivor S. Baburdeen said.

Baburdeen said he jumped out of the window and ran to the jungle.

11 die in Andhra elections

HYDERABAD, India, March 11. (Reuters): At least 11 people were killed in clashes during elections for village councils in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, police said today.

They were killed on Thursday during the first of four rounds of polling for more than 18,500 councils. More than 400,000 candidates are contesting 181,000 seats.

Members of India's two communist parties, the ruling regional Telugu Desam and the nationally-ruling Congress (I) were among those killed.

A Telugu Desam party leader and his four supporters were hacked to death with sharp-edged weapons in Guntur and three communists were similarly killed in Khammam district.

A Congress party supporter was shot dead by his rivals in Cuddapah and another died of bullet wounds in Nellore. A Desam worker died of bullet wounds when police fired on angry crowds in Cuddapah.

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KUWAIT

Moscow doing its best for a Mideast peace conference

THE Soviet Union is doing its best toward the convocation of UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East. Kuwaiti Ambassador in Moscow Abdel Mohsen Al Duaij said.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper Al Duaij added that Moscow is fully convinced that Palestinian representation at the proposed forum must be done by Palestinians themselves, noting, "what the Soviet suggested is the right solution to realise peace and justice in our region."

The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that Arabs are concerned, first of all, with the Mideast crisis, underlining that Israeli violent practices against

innocent Palestinians, are a spitting image of Nazi conducts during World War II.

He stressed that the Arab nation is "incomplete" without occupied Palestine, praising the Soviet stance toward Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian problem.

Gulf war

Regarding the blazing Iraq-Iran war, Al Duaij said that Moscow has expressed readiness to endorse a supplementary resolution to 598 which calls for an end to the hostilities in the Gulf, if the Arabs wish so, "but this is not happening right this minute."

He added that despite the Soviet Union's efforts in this respect,

only the two belligerents can decide when they had enough of this "futile" war.

The Kuwaiti ambassador recalled Iraq's compliance with peace calls, hoping that Iran would follow in Iraq's footsteps, "because the war serves neither Iraq nor Iran."

On the Afghan problem, he said that Moscow is "serious" in the matter of withdrawing its forces and realising a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Regarding the quarter of a century old diplomatic ties between Kuwait and Moscow, Al Duaij said, "our ties with the Soviet Union have surpassed the testing stage and entered the stage of confidence."

Public libraries linked with education system

PUBLIC libraries in Kuwait have been linked with the general education system since 1912 and the Kuwait University health sciences college library alone contains 6,795 books. It is considered a specialised library with a large number of microfilms and scientific records, the Assistant Library Director Wasima Al Tayser said.

The Education College Library contains 5,000 books with a variety of periodicals and reference books. The Assistant Library Director said librarians spend a lot of time preparing files and book and periodical lists. She said that newspapers are also filed at the library.

In addition to the education libraries the Ministry of Communications has a library of 5,000 books, most of which pertain to sea, land and telephone communications. Muna Mahmoud Fayrouz, the manager of the libraries section, said that the use of microfilm, computers and other facilities to store data was an effective method of protecting Arabian traditions, culture and accomplishments from loss. She added that modern data storage systems made a librarian's job a lot more efficient.

Renew passports in time

THE Director General of Kuwait's General Immigration Department Brigadier Khaled Al Munaiyes said visas will no longer be valid if the validity date of the passport has expired.

He said passports should be renewed in time by the holders in order to avoid fines.

He added that even if the visa date was still valid the expiry of the passport renders the visa invalid.

Al Munaiyes told expatriates with expired passports to check with the immigration department to have their visas transferred to new passports.

Ministry of Public Works seeks closer cooperation with university

THE Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti said Thursday his ministry is seeking closer cooperation with Kuwait University's faculty of Engineering and Petroleum.

Al Houti added that the ministry would be liaising with the faculty of engineering and petroleum to organise high-performance training programmes for the ministry engineers, particularly in the fields of designing and computer, which the ministry would soon introduce to its departments.

He made his remarks to Kuna after receiving at his office the dean of engineering and petroleum faculty, Dr Hassan Alalawi and the chairman of

chemical, mechanical, electrical and computer departments.

Following a brief exchange on prospects of boosting bilateral cooperation, Al Houti took the senior Kuwait University professors on a tour of the ministry's construction engineering department, where they met senior officials of planning, designing and execution.

Keen

Speaking to Kuna following the tour, the ministry pointed out that the visit by Kuwait University engineering professors came at invitation from the Ministry of Public Works "especially as we are approaching administrative reform in all state institutions."

Al Houti said he was keen on acquainting the professors about the nature of engineering work at the ministry "so as they teach their students, many of whom would work at the ministry after graduation."

He indicated the ministry could benefit from the university not only through the graduation of engineers, but also in the field of research particularly resolving the problems of foul smells from sewages along public roads, and preventing sand shifts.

Concluding, the minister emphasised that such meetings with highly qualified academics would help drawing clear plans for improving work performance and fulfilling mutual objectives.

Two hundred and sixty eight graduates from the authority's various faculties and training centres will be honoured at the ceremony.

Kuwait-Soviet cooperation stable

MOSCOW, March 11, (Kuna): The comprehensive cooperation between Kuwait and the Soviet Union has been stable and of mutual benefits since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Moscow one quarter century ago, the official Soviet Tass news agency said.

In a comment on the 25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union, Tass said cooperation between the two countries is based on "the principles of equality and non-interference in internal affairs."

The commentary said recent years have witnessed rising Kuwait-Soviet political contacts that help develop mutual understanding, and referred to the exchange of messages between HH the Amir of Kuwait and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The agency noted that Kuwait and the Soviet Union adopt "similar stands toward most major international issues."

The agency referred to the

agreement signed in Moscow between the two countries during the visit to the Soviet Union by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah last October on expanding cooperation in the oil and banking sectors and setting up joint establishments.

The agreement also stipulates for setting up joint Kuwait-Soviet committees to develop economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Behbehani re-elected

INFORMATION Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad on Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to the President of the Kuwait Journalists Association Ahmed Yousef Behbehani on the occasion of his re-election as president.

In his cable, Sheikh Jaber expressed confidence that Behbehani and his colleagues on the association's board of directors would succeed in living up to their responsibilities with competence and excellence.

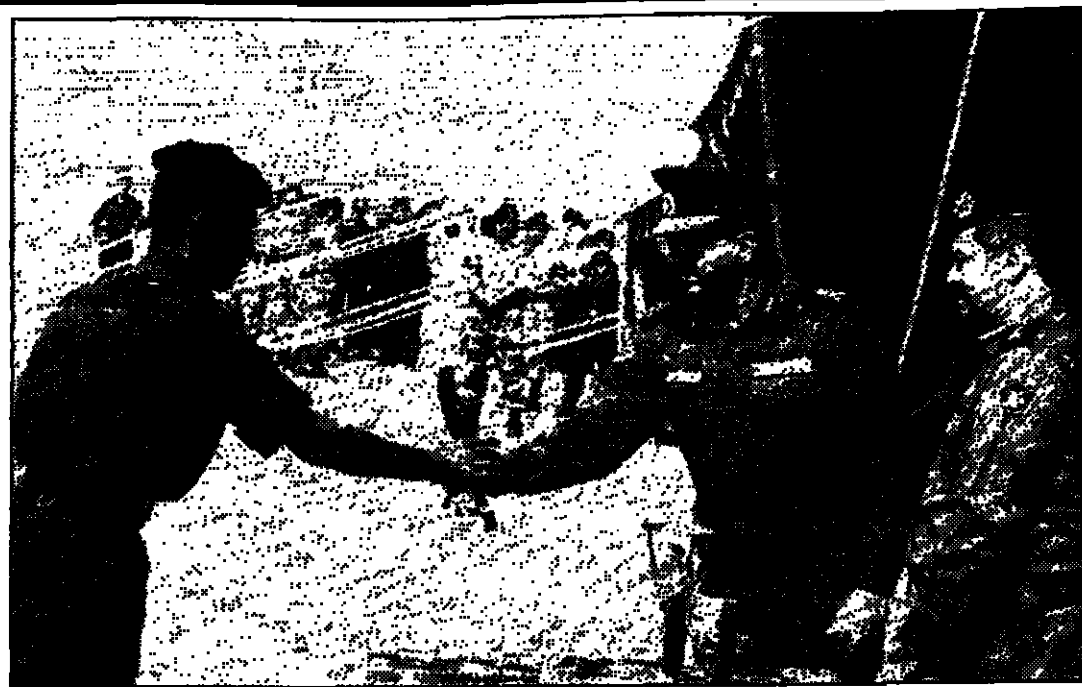
The minister pointed out that the local press had proven that it stood in a distinguished position among all the Arab media.

He wished the association's new board prosperity under the prudent leadership of HH the Amir, and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Graduation ceremony

HH the Amir will patronise the graduation ceremony for graduates of the Public Authority for Training and Applied Education scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at the Sabah Al Salem Theatre in the Khaldiya area.

Two hundred and sixty eight graduates from the authority's various faculties and training centres will be honoured at the ceremony.



● Major General Yousef Bader Al Khorafi, Kuwait Interior Ministry's Undersecretary, presents a cup to one of the graduates of the Sixth Attack Force training class. The ceremony was also attended by top ministry officials, governorate security chiefs, the director of the Special Troops Department and a number of high ranking officers.

Hussein praises outcome of cultural fund meeting

ADVISED at the Amiri Diwan and member of the administrative board of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture Abdel Aziz Hussein said that the recent board meetings held here early this week realised fruitful results in backing cultural projects and reserving heritage world-wide.

Hussein said in a statement to Kuna that this meeting, the first of its kind to be held in an Arab country, marked the beginning of the international decade for the development of cultural which gives it an added significance.

Projects

He noted that the meeting was also attended by fund's new director and reconsidered several methods which the fund pursued to execute its actions in the past.

Hussein praised the meeting's communiqué, which came after four prolonged sessions, noting that it centred on many issues including the importance of preserving cultural antiquities, especially between the warring countries.

Pointing out to meeting of the

board members with HH the Amir he said that the Amir made a generous donation of \$100,000 to the fund which was equalled by the Kuwaiti government.

The members also conferred with acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on culture in the history of peoples and the valuable role the fund plays in this regard.

Hussein, one of two Arabs at the fund whose chairman is Sudanese national Bashir Al Bakri, said that the fund executed 35 projects all over the globe.

Contradiction

On scheme the fund implemented in occupied Palestine, he said that more than one was executed, the last of which was publishing a book on Palestinian poets.

The fund's board member denied any contradiction in goals between Unesco, the mother organisation, and the fund, indicating that both bodies complement each other's activities.

The board enjoys a four-year membership, where members are selected for their qualifications and personal traits, taking into account geographical representation.

Proposal to reduce electricity charges rejected

KUWAIT'S Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah has rejected a proposal to reduce electricity prices and has said the proposal to reduce prices for power to chalets is still under study.

Al Rqobah said the state pays 90 per cent of the actual price of electricity and asked citizens to economise on the use of electricity in their homes.

The minister said that because of the size of Kuwait's population electric metres would not be installed in individual homes. He added that this proposal would be too difficult to carry out.

The ministry will continue its present system of annual power consumption and billing, he said, adding that consumers would be given three warnings before power is disconnected.

Al Rqobah said the ministry plans to replace the present asbestos water pipelines with ductile pipes. He said the present pipes waste about 15 per cent of

the water carried and increased the level of underground water. He said the pipes were being changed already in the Dasma and Shuwaikh areas. The new pipe system will solve the problem of rust in the water, he said.

Al Rqobah said that if the difference in projected consumption billing exceeded KD100 the ministry would give back the amount due.

Special budget for justice ministers meet

SALAH Ben Ali, the Chairman of the Financial Committee for the Arab Justice Ministers Conference and Director of Financial Affairs at Kuwait's Finance Ministry, said a special budget has been prepared for the conference taking both the conference's success and spending cuts into consideration.

He said the conference will be attended by 22 Arab countries, in addition to the Arab League secretary-general, the secretary-general of the Arab Justice Ministers Council, the secretary-general of the Arab Organisation for Crime Prevention and Defence and the director-general of the Arab Centre for Jurisprudence and Legal Research.

Two released on bail in kidnapping case

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours refrained from passing sentence on two men charged with kidnapping three teenage girls and attempting to assault them.

The court asked the two men to pay KD500 each as bail and to give a pledge of good conduct for two years.

The incident began when the three girls, aged 11, 12 and 14, decided to run away from their homes. They went out on the street, and the two men, who were passing by in a car, offered them a lift.

The girls asked to be taken to a commercial centre in Shuwaikh, but the centre was closed and the men offered to drive them back. However, the men took the girls to an apartment in Reggal area. The girls said that one of the two men took one of them into the bedroom and screams were heard, but the girl succeeded in coming out of the bedroom.

The court said the men did nothing to the girls and returned them to their relatives, so it did not sentence them.

Sheikh Saad receives Mellor

LONDON, March 11, (Kuna): Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah received at his residence in London yesterday afternoon Britain's Foreign Office Minister David Mellor.

Discussions during the meeting covered bilateral relations, regional issues, including the Iran-Iraq war and matters of mutual concern, British officials said.

Kuwait's Ambassador in London Ghazi Al Rayes was also present during the meeting.

The Foreign Office described the call by the minister responsible for the Middle East as "purely by way of courtesy."

Annual education meeting

THE Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khudari said the ministry will hold its second annual education meeting on March 19 under the theme of "evaluation of teaching staff performance."

The meeting, to be patronised by the Education Minister and Acting Minister of Higher Education Anwar Al Nouri, will include 150 participants.

Many technical work papers have been prepared by the ministry for presentation at the meeting, the undersecretary said.

Baghdad book fair

KUWAIT will be represented by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, in Baghdad's 6th international book fair.

The fair, organised by the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information, will take place from March 15 to 25.

Kuwait's pavilion in the fair will include all publications issued by the council.

Alawi sends message to Singh

MUSCAT, March 11, (Kuna): The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah sent a written message to his counterpart Nawar Singh.

The message was delivered by the Sultanate's ambassador to New Delhi, Salim Bin Mohammed Al Wahabi when he called on the minister today.

The message dealt with bilateral relations and means to expand them, Oman News Agency reported.

Sentenced to death

TWO Egyptians, Zaki Y.M. and Attallah B.M. have been sentenced to death by Kuwait's Criminal Court for the first degree murder of Saeed T.S.

According to testimony given in court, the victim had murdered the son of Zaki Y.M. in Egypt. Zaki and his cousin Attallah came to Kuwait to seek revenge.

Arrested SECURITY officers in Ahmadi have arrested a Kuwaiti citizen charged with possession of liquor.

Six bottles of liquor were found in the man's car and he was taken to the police station for questioning.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Call for unified Arab position

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday called for a unified Arab position toward the peace proposals presented by US Secretary of State George Shultz during his recent Mideast shuttle.

In an editorial, Al Rai Al Aam said the Palestinian leadership should develop its plans, on the Arab and international levels, so as to reach a unified Arab stance toward the American initiative.

The paper dismissed the argument that the popular uprising in the occupied territories be a mere phase for a political settlement and said it is unacceptable that the uprising comes to an end in the way demanded by Shultz.

The newspaper further said that the American Secretary of State has presented his proposals to end the uprising and "salvage Israel" but he was unaware that it is impossible to do so with traditional methods and old ideas, noting that there is not much difference between the new American initiative and the Camp David accords.

Al Rai Al Aam expressed belief that the Arabs should adopt a position toward Shultz's proposals so as not to give Israel the chance to appear as the side willing for peace while it is in fact pursuing the most extremist and repressive practices.

It added that the uprising has put Israel in a critical situation and it is wrong now to say no to Shultz's plan saying "Shamir is waiting for us to say no in order to say yes."

The paper expressed belief that Shamir wants Arabs to look "extremists" so as to appear as a "moderate."

First family health centre to be opened in Fintas

THE director of Kuwait's Adan Health Area Dr Salah Al Atiqi said the Fintas health centre in the Adan health area would be opened soon and would be the first family health centre in Kuwait. He added that six doctors have been trained in family medicine and a new centre will open soon to train more doctors at the Hadaya Health Centre.

Dr Atiqi said the Adan health area was one of the leaders in implementing a computerised patient registration system. He added that computers were now being used in health registration and medical laboratories.

Kuwait provides the best health services free of charge to all residents, he said, spending 6.5 percent of public expenditures on health services.

He added that a total of 2.4 million patients visited clinics

from 1986 to 1987, with 1.9 million receiving general treatment and a half million pediatric treatment. A total of 92,195 patients visited women's and pregnancy clinics, he said, and 165,190 received dental treatment.

He explained that the Adan Hospital is designed to serve 250,000 residents but the area has a population 370,000.

Dr Atiqi said there are 16 doctors and six consultants on night duty at the hospital in addition to six doctors in the emergency sections.

Kuwait needs another medical college, he said, adding that it would take another 15 years to Kuwaitise medical services. Dr Atiqi said cutbacks had little effect on Kuwait's health services and noted the necessity of charging for services.

Drop in accidents due to pedestrian bridges

THE Gulf Cooperation Council has designated the week beginning March 26 as Traffic Week throughout the Gulf member states. The Director of Planning at Kuwait's Traffic Department Dr Nabil Shuaiber said the construction of a total of 30 pedestrian bridges had significantly decreased the number of accidents in Kuwait, but added that 18,262 accidents were reported in Kuwait last year.

The GCC Traffic Week was one of the recommendations made at a recent traffic conference held in Bahrain. The Director General of the Traffic Department Brigadier Fuad Mussaad Al Saleh suggested that an intensive study be conducted to highlight traffic problems and

accidents in GCC countries. Shuaiber said there were about 600,000 vehicles in Kuwait, or one car for every three persons. He added that there were about 324 accidents for every 10,000 cars with most accidents being collisions.

The Director of the Scientific Publications Council at Kuwait University Dr Yaseen Taha recommended that a committee be formed with representatives from the traffic department, Kuwait TV and information specialists to discuss the traffic problem and to develop informational programmes to increase public awareness.

Agricultural law amended

SHEIKH Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah, the Chairman and Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, said the amendment to Law No. 94/1983 authorises the authority to act as the only establishment on behalf of agricultural and fish resources in Kuwait. He said this amendment will prevent disputes between the authority and other ministries.

Al Duaij added that with the position of the authority established budgets will be reduced and unified and local agricultural and fish production would be improved.

He said the central department for statistics had already trained those who will take part in the survey, which is scheduled to end on March 25.

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Saudi Arabia, Tunisia support PLO seat at peace conference

RIYADH, March 11, (AP): Saudi Arabia and Tunisia insisted yesterday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation be given a seat at a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East.

The demand was made in a joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the four-day visit of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and followed talks he held with King Fahd.

The demand indicated that the influential Saudi leadership does not back any Middle East peace proposal that envisages Palestinians outside the PLO representing their people at any peace talks.

The latest statement came in the wake of a trip to the region by US Secretary of State George P. Shultz, who brought American plans for a settlement.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri is scheduled to visit Washington later in the month and is expected to outline further the Saudi and Arab position, diplomatic sources said.

The 22-nation Arab League has its headquarters in Tunis.

The Saudi-Tunisian communiqué stressed support for the Palestinian "firm right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state on its soil, including holy Jerusalem, under the leadership of the PLO, its legitimate and sole representative," referring to the 1982 so-called Fez plan which is based on these principles and had originally been submitted by Fahd when he was Crown Prince.

Pride The two leaders expressed pride in the "blessed uprising" of the Palestinian inhabitants against the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They called for convening of the international peace conference "with the participation of all permanent member states of the UN Security Council (and) including the PLO, to solve the (Arab-Israeli) problem justly and permanently."

Objections by Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Shamir still impeded the convening of the conference, which is a major demand of the Arab parties to the conflict and the Soviet Union.

The Tunisian president, who arrived Tuesday, completed his official talks with the Saudi monarch then travelled to perform the pilgrimage in the Muslim holy cities of Makkah and Madinah before returning home.

Ben Ali took over the leadership in Tunis last November after deposing long-time President Habib Bourguiba in a bloodless change of power in the North African state. He has only been out of the country once since then, to hold talks with President Chadli Benjedid in Algeria last week.

Fahd and Ben Ali deplored the protracted shedding of blood between two Muslim nations, Iraq and Iran, and called on the world community "and primarily the UN Security Council to shoulder responsibility in taking the steps that would

ensure implementation of resolution 598" as soon as possible.

That resolution, which demands an immediate ceasefire to the war which started in 1980, was passed by the council July 26.

Arms embargo

Under pressure of the raging missile attacks by the two belligerents on each other's cities, contacts are going on at the United Nations on means of implementing the resolution, with the United States pressing for an arms embargo on Iran.

The Saudi-Tunisian joint communiqué criticised Iran's "procrastination" over the implementation of the ceasefire resolution but did not refer directly to the arms embargo in demanding quick implementation of 598.

Pledging bolstered bilateral ties in various fields, the communiqué referred to an economic and trade cooperation pact signed during Ben Ali's visit which provides for elimination of customs duties on a large number of commodities exchanged.

Kuwait to charter US supertanker

MANAMA, March 11, (AP): Kuwait, with 11 of its own oil tankers already sailing under the American flag, has agreed to charter a US-government-owned supertanker as an addition to its fleet, Kuwaiti officials said yesterday.

The state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Co., said the 264,073-tonne Maryland would be chartered to carry Kuwaiti crude oil under US Navy escort if the arrangement is approved by the US Maritime Administration, which owns the vessel.

Unaware KOTC said that if the charter arrangement, with ECS Marine and Ogden Marine International of New York, was approved, the Maryland could be sailing the Gulf by July. Under terms of the agreement, it would carry an all-US crew.

A maritime administration official, who asked not to be named, said he was unaware of any charter bids from Kuwait or anywhere else for the Maryland. He said there had been "purchase bids" for the Maryland and two other ships, but would not say from whom.

The Maryland is one of three US-flagged tankers that Kuwait had been negotiating to charter since last year through the Chesapeake Shipping Co., established as legal owners of the refitted tankers. The agreement broke down, when Kuwait reportedly refused to pay a \$2.5-million bill for overhaul of the vessel at an Oregon shipyard.

Shaheen meets President Zia

ISLAMABAD, March 11, (Kuna): Visiting Undersecretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen last night called on President Zia-ul-Haq at the Army House, the official residence of the president in Rawalpindi.

Officials said Shaheen conveyed a message from the Amir of Kuwait to the Pakistani President.

President Zia and Shaheen also discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Kuwaiti undersecretary was accompanied by Adil Abdul Rasool of Kuwait's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Foad Saleh of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and Qasim Omar Al-Ja'fari, the Kuwaiti Ambassador in Pakistan.

Yesterday the undersecretary had a meeting with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo at the Prime Minister's house in Rawalpindi.

Shaheen today completed his South-East Asian tour, which took him to Malaysia, Thailand and India besides Pakistan. He arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday from New Delhi.

Saudi donations for Rome mosque

ROME, March 11, (Kuna): Saudi Ambassador to Italy Khalid Nasser Al Turki today handed \$1.5 million to the Islamic Cultural Centre here from the Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz as the last instalment of the Saudi donation for building Rome's new mosque.

The Saudi donation is estimated at seven million dollars.

The grand mosque comprise a library, cultural centre in addition to a number of facilities to meet the Islamic community's needs.

Passport renewal

THE Indian Embassy in Kuwait has announced that holders of Indian passports can renew or obtain new passports six months before the expiry of the validity of their passports.

It advised Indians to take action in time to avoid last minute problems in getting their residence permit renewed or transferred to the new passports by the local authorities.

Iraq, Iran halt war of cities

(Continued from Page 1)

Soviet-made Scud-B missiles in their rocket attacks.

Iraq said its jets raided a tanker in the Gulf today and seven cities in Iran. Iran said civilians were killed. Maritime officials could not confirm the ship attack.

There were no reports of Iranian missile attacks but Iran said its artillery pounded Basra and other southern Iraqi cities and its warplanes bombed Iraqi troop concentrations.

Iraq said women and children were killed in the shelling.

But an Iranian military spokesman said Iran later in the day stopped its "deterrent attacks" on Iraqi cities.

The unidentified spokesman, speaking on Tehran Radio, said Iran would respond decisively if Iraq attacked residential areas.

The truce had been arranged partly through the efforts of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who announced that the sides had agreed to it.

Iran's Premier Hussein

Musavi, said his nation agreed to the truce because the war should "take place chivalrously on the battlefield."

In Ankara, Iranian Ambassador Manusher Mortaki said today that his nation would honour the Friday-afternoon truce deadline if Iraq did. He also praised Ozal's efforts to end the blitz of cities.

In another development, US military sources in Washington said Iran has started constructing crude launch pads for Silkworm missiles on the Gulf island of Abu Musa, potentially increasing its ability to menace Gulf shipping.

Stressed The defence officials, stressed that US intelligence agencies had so far failed to detect any effort by Iran to move Silkworm missiles to the small island.

The Silkworm is a Chinese-built variant of an old Soviet missile that can be fired from mobile launchers on land against ships. It has a range of about 50 miles (80 kilometres).

In Washington, Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xuegiao said yesterday that his government had adopted "strict measures" to prevent the flow of "Silkworm" missiles to Iran and Iraq through the international arms market.

And he insisted China no longer was selling arms to Iran — a thorny issue between the US and China lately.

Revolutionary Guards yesterday fired 10 rockets into Iraq's Umm Qasr naval base bordering Kuwait, Tehran reported.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said a number of Iraqi military personnel were killed in the attack, which hit gunboats moored at the base and economic and oil installations.

Umm Qasr, across the narrow Khawr 'Abd Allah waterway from Kuwait, is Iraq's only operational naval base used for forays against Iranian shipping in the northern Gulf.

There was no indication of the size of the rockets.

Omani training ship arrives in Singapore

SINGAPORE, March 11, (Kuna): The Omani naval training vessel "Shabab Oman" arrived in Singapore today on a four-day goodwill visit on its way home from Australia.

The visit is part of the 485-tonne sail training vessel's 17,000-mile voyage to Australia, where she took part in the bicentenary celebrations in January.

The voyage has taken the Shabab Oman to 11 ports in six countries. The ports of call were Colombo, Penang (Malaysia), Singapore, Surabaya (Indonesia), Australia's Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane, Hobart, Sydney, Cairns and the Brunei Sultanate.

The ship's seven officers, 22 ratings and 96 student crews left their home town port of Muscat, capital of Oman, on Oct 17 last year. The ship was scheduled to return home next month after having completed the second longest voyage since visiting the

United States in 1986.

During her service with the Oman's Navy, Shabab Oman has visited 17 countries as a goodwill ambassador, including an epic 7-1/2-month voyage to the US in 1986 to join a "parade of sails" as part of the centenary celebrations of the Statue of Liberty.

The 54-metre long Shabab Oman, a barquentine built in Buckie, Scotland, in 1971, is the largest wooden sail training ship in commission and came into service with the Oman Navy in 1979 to provide sail and adventure training for the youth of Oman.

In the tradition of Oman's seafaring heritage, young men from all walks of life come to the vessel for adventure training. The men on board are taught sail handling, steering, basic navigation, boat work and ship's husbandry.

Encroachment of desert becoming grave problem

ENCROACHMENT of the desert was one of the "gravest problems" facing "humanity because such encroachment destroyed agricultural land at a time when the world population was exploding, a professor of geography at Kuwait University, Dr Mohammed Rasheed Al Feel, said recently.

He was speaking at a symposium held by the Kuwait Environment Society.

He said that desertification had resulted in aridity of 43 per cent of the total land area of earth, and added that the consequences were threatening about 800 million people.

Plant life

Dr Al Feel said the annual desertification rate was between 50 million and 70 million square kilometres, and this was the result of faulty planning and lack of agrarian know-how.

Another speaker at the symposium, Faed Al Shuaibi of

Kuwait Municipality, said that all urban development affected various elements of the environment.

He said that urban development also affected natural resources, plant life and general health, brought with it pollution of air, water and soil, and gave rise to psychological and social problems.

He emphasised that sound planning of urbanisation and of agricultural projects was a fool-proof way of reducing the rate of desertification and also of determining the effects of various urban projects on the environment.

Another speaker, Sameera Omar of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), said there were three ways of resolving desertification problems. They were: agrarian reform, exploitation of arid land for grazing purposes and consolidation of agro-production industries.

FAO regional conference

MUSCAT, March 11, (Kuna): Sayyid Thuwaini Bin Shihab Al Said the personal representative of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said will open on Sunday the FAO 19th regional conference for the Near East at Al Bustan Palace hotel, Oman news agency reported.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zahir Al Hinai said the five-day conference would discuss several papers on developing fishery and marine life as well as energy for the purpose of agricultural development.

The mechanisation and immigration phenomenon and their impact on the agricultural development would also be discussed, the minister added.

Support uprising: Al Aqsa preacher

PREACHER of the Jerusalem-based Al Aqsa mosque Sheikh Hamed Al Beitawi was quoted here as urging the Arabs and Muslims to give every possible aid to the Palestinians in their uprising against the Israeli occupation.

Beitawi told a Kuwaiti weekly that the Palestinians in their three-month uprising reached a stage of famine, and the occupation troops continue their brutality by breaking into Palestinian houses and destroying them, besides the torturing of Palestinians.

Beitawi added that it is the duty of every Muslim to support the Palestinians, affirming that

the Israeli suppressive acts were behind the outbreak of the popular uprising.

The preacher of Al Aqsa said regretfully the Muslims' support to the Palestinian popular uprising is not sufficient.

He noted in this regard that "unfortunately the Muslims, and even the Palestinians outside the occupied territories, are not fully aware of the Palestinians' sufferings in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The Palestinian workers are on strike for three months, the economic situation is completely paralysed, and the living conditions are very bad," he concluded.

The team was due to have been led by the head of the ILO's application of standards branch, Andre Zenger of Switzerland, and to include two French-national ILO experts, Catherine Comptet and Jean Servais, ILO officials said today.

However, as the affair was still under formal consideration by Blanchard, the composition of the group would not be confirmed until shortly before its departure, they said.

Qatari Crown Prince to visit UK

LONDON, March 11, (Kuna): The Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani will visit the UK from March 20 to 23 at the invitation of the British government, it was officially confirmed yesterday.

Sheikh Hamad will be accompanied by Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Khalifa, the Qatari Minister of Finance and Petroleum and by Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saif Al Thani, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Office said.

During his visit, the Qatari Crown Prince will have talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, her Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Defence Secretary George Younger.

Thatcher will give a luncheon in honour of Sheikh Hamad, who is also the Minister of Defence, on March 21.

Howe will host a dinner in honour of the Qatari, her apparent at which Princess Anne, the Queen's daughter, will be present.

Prince Charles, Britain's heir apparent is also due to give a luncheon in honour of the Sheikh at his Kensington Palace, central London, according to the official programme of the visit.

British officials said that talks between Sheikh Hamad and UK leaders will cover the Iran-Iraq war and efforts to bring it to an early end as well as bilateral relations.

The Palestinian uprising and the Arab-Israeli dispute will also be discussed, they added.

GDR offers more study places for Arabs

BERLIN, March 11, (Kuna): The German Democratic Republic has noted with deep satisfaction "the political, economic, scientific and technological relations with the United Arab Emirates have become ever closer. Deputy Minister of Higher and Technical Education Professor Joachim Garscha has said.

In an interview with the East German News Agency ADN on his tour of several emirates, he called his visits very successful thanks to the extremely frank atmosphere in which they took place.

The GDR had offered to provide more study places for Arab students and to boost tourism, particularly for young people from the Emirates, Garscha said, adding that he also proposed language courses and advanced training. The minister had voiced his country's interest in setting up isotope laboratories, fish farms in sea water tanks and establishing melon plantations in the Emirates.

The minister praised his talks in the United Arab Emirates and the agreements signed as another concrete step towards extending beneficial relations between the GDR and the emirates, particularly in economic and scientific-technological cooperation between the two states.

Sheikh Hamad visits UAE

ABU DHABI, March 11, (Kuna): Bahrain's Crown Prince and Commander of Bahraini Defence Forces Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa arrived here yesterday on a visit to the UAE lasting five days.

On his arrival, Sheikh Hamad was received by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, UAE's Crown Prince and Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces and other high ranking officials.

US considering extending protection to ships in Gulf

WASHINGTON, March 11, (AP): The United States is considering ways to help merchant ships that are not flying the US flag in the Gulf, Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci said Wednesday.

"We are examining a number of options in this regard, but serious policy, legal, economic and force level issues remain," Carlucci told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Since last July 22, the US Navy has protected 11 Kuwaiti-owned tankers refuelled with the Star and Stripes. The large-scale convoy operation increased the number of Navy ships in the area from six to about 30.

The Kuwaiti ships are being protected against attack by Iran, which has been at war for 7-1/2 years with Iraq.

The administration of President Reagan has been asked for aid by US shipowners using so-called flags of convenience,

such as Panama and Liberia. The Navy has refused, citing US policies of helping only American-flagged ships.

US shipowners "continue to ask us to provide protection to their non-US flag vessels," Carlucci said. "Despite our humanitarian desire to be helpful, our longstanding requirement for ships to be flying the US flag remains very persuasive."

Fluctuate "Absent a US flag, we believe a substantial foreign force operational commitment would be mandatory," he noted.

The Navy decreased the number of ships in the Gulf area, Carlucci noted, after the battle ship Iowa and helicopter carrier Okinawa were withdrawn earlier this year.

The withdrawal "does not represent any change in our policy or any weakening of our capability," Carlucci noted.

"The numbers will continue to fluctuate somewhat, but our

steadfast commitment along with our capabilities will remain a constant as long as our presence is required."

American allies in Europe provide a wide range of help for the Navy in the Gulf, Carlucci noted.

Most of that aid comes from allied minesweepers that were sent into the region after the first of the refuelled Kuwaiti tankers hit a mine last July 24 and other mines were found in the following months.

Japan provides financial help, Carlucci said, but is prohibited by its US-written laws from sending ships to the region.

Carlucci said the Pentagon is considering four aegis defence systems to Japan for use in the Japanese Navy. Each would cost about 1 billion dollars.

The Aegis, with its sophisticated electronics, is considered the world's most advanced air defence system and plays a key role in Navy plans to defend American ships in wartime.

9,500 Bangladeshis take part in election



● About 9,500 Bangladeshis yesterday voted to elect 27 executives of the Bangladesh Association, Kuwait. The polls were held at the Bangladesh Embassy premises in Jabriya and were supervised by Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin and embassy officials. Polling began at 8 am and ended at 6 pm. The results will be announced on March 18. An election committee was formed to conduct the election. The election was held peacefully. Picture shows some Bangladeshis filling in the ballots as Ambassador Shehabuddin looks on. (Photo by Mohammad Nayer)

Arab League conference at American University

WASHINGTON, March 11, (Kuna): Students from 21 universities and colleges in twelve states and the District of Columbia, will attend the sixth annual Arab League conference at the American University in Washington March 16 to 19.

The conference, sponsored by the Arab League office in Washington and the national council on US-Arab relations, has emerged as an important annual programme providing a unique opportunity for university and college students to become familiar with the workings of regional organisations, especially the Arab League.

Ambassador Clovis Mak-soud, the permanent observer of the Arab League to the United Nations and its chief representative in the United States, will deliver the keynote address at the conference inaugural session.

The student delegations, each of which represents an Arab country, will simulate meetings of the Arab League council and various league bodies and will

attend instruction sessions and briefings at the Arab embassies in Washington so as to learn as much as possible about the functions of the league.

At the end of the conference the participants will adopt recommendations on a variety of topics of importance to the Arab world.

Al Qasimi in London

LONDON, March 11, (Kuna): The Ruler of Ras Al Khaima Sheikh Sagr Bin Muhammad Al Qasimi conferred here today with British Foreign Office Minister David Mellor on regional issues including the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral relations.

Mellor took the opportunity of Al Qasimi's private visit here to call on him by way of courtesy, the Foreign Office said.

The British minister, who is responsible for the Middle East, visited the UAE in December last year as part of a Gulf tour.

PLO supports holding of Arab summit

TUNIS, March 11, (Kuna): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has officially communicated its approval for the call made by the Algerian President Chadli Ben Jadid to convene an Arab summit urgently to discuss the situation arising out of the popular Palestinian uprising in all occupied Arab lands.

Informed sources here told Kuna that the PLO has communicated its approval in a letter addressed to the secretary general of the Arab League, Chadli Klibi recently.

However, these sources said that the Arab League Secretariat here has not received the official approval for the Arab summit from any of the Arab League member states.

These sources further said that Chadli Klibi was constantly in touch with the Arab League member-states in a bid to muster their official support for convening in Arab Arab summit urgently.

ILO chief to visit Syria and Jordan

GENEVA, March 11, (Kuna): The head of International Labour Organisation is to visit Syria and Jordan in the first 10 days of April, with his trip being related to recent Kuwaiti requests that the ILO step up its investigation of working conditions of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, sources at the Geneva agency said today.

ILO Director-General Francis Blanchard had long-standing invitations to visit Damascus and Jordan, and it was significant that he had now decided to accept them, as this followed a meeting last week of the ILO's governing body at which the Kuwaiti call was discussed, they said.

Every year for the past 11 years the ILO has sent a small team of experts to Israel and the occupied

Arab lands to draw up a report on work conditions there for presentation at the organisation's annual June conference.

In December the Kuwaiti government sent a message to the director-general calling on him to take "appropriate action" over Israel's violations of ILO resolutions dealing with the rights of Palestinian workers, which were being violated by the Israelis in their attempts to suppress the uprising.

Subsequently, at the ILO governing body meeting last week, Kuwait formally asked that the size and the level of the mission to be upgraded, and for Blanchard himself go to the occupied territories to check into what was happening to Palestinian workers.

The mission should also pay special attention to deductions made from the wages of Palestinian workers, worth several hundred million dollars, without any corresponding social security entitlements, the practices of the Israeli settlers, and the social and economic impact on Palestinians of the settlements policy, Kuwait's representative urged.

No decision on the request had yet been announced as officially it was still under consideration by Blanchard, the sources noted.

The ILO head had however agreed in principle to visit the occupied Arab lands, but he would not be going with the team of experts, which is due to leave next Friday, and he would not go before the summer conference, the sources said.

It was also understood that the composition of the group of experts would not be changed, despite the support of East European states, China and other Arab countries' support for the Kuwaiti request that more than three experts be sent to draw up the report.

The team was due to have been led by the head of the ILO's application of standards branch, Andre Zenger of Switzerland, and to include two French-national ILO experts, Catherine Comptet and Jean Servais, ILO officials said today.

However, as the affair was still under formal consideration by Blanchard, the composition of the group would not be confirmed until shortly before its departure, they said.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONLY a mediocre person is always at his best —
W. Somerset Maugham, English author (1874 - 1965).

After arms control agreement

Secret US complex gaining importance

By Gary Thatcher

CANBERRA, Australia: As the United States and the Soviet Union prepare to begin destroying their latest arms control agreement, a highly secret complex in the Australian outback is taking on more importance to the West.

It lies in the desert scrublands outside of Alice Springs, in some of the most unforgiving territory of this hard-bitten continent. But the isolation of the Joint Defence Space Research Facility — more commonly known for its location in Pine Gap — is, to US and Australian military planners, part of its beauty.

For this remote outpost provides a unique vantage point for staring down into the Soviet Union and determine whether the Kremlin is complying with arms control treaties.

"Pine Gap" is the "downlink" for some of the most sensitive and important US spy satellites, providing the West with a wealth of intelligence data on Soviet missiles tests, radar emissions, and military communications. The Soviets are also well aware of the importance of Pine Gap; it is widely assumed that because of it and other joint US-Australian facilities, Australia even though it possesses no nuclear weapons — is a target of Soviet nuclear missiles.

Yet even that prospect has not dissuaded successive Australian leaders of all political stripes from defending the existence of Pine Gap. Even the current Labour Party government, which is embroiled in trade disputes with the US, resists any efforts to use Pine Gap and four other joint military facilities here as bargaining chips.

Safeguarding

"They are not bargaining chips. They aren't on the table at all," says a senior official of the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley echoes that view, arguing that Pine Gap and the other bases here are part of "our shared interests in (safeguarding) Western values."

Indeed, says Professor Desmond Ball, head of the Strategic & Defence Studies Centre at

Australian National University, Pine Gap is "central to the entire Australian-US relationship," and crucial to the West in pursuing future arms control agreements.

Ball, author of a forthcoming book on Pine Gap, says, "You can't monitor Soviet compliance with present arms control agreements — and even more so, you can't monitor Soviet compliance with any future arms agreements — without Pine Gap."

But why the Australian outback? Actually, there would appear to be few sites in the world as ideally suited to the task as Pine Gap.

With its eight radar domes tucked in a valley in the desolate MacDonnell mountain range, Pine Gap is in an electronically "quiet" area, notes Ball, with few electromagnetic signals that might interfere with the incoming data. Moreover, he notes, the site is so isolated there is virtually no possibility that any foreign agent could get close enough to intercept the data beamed down from satellites and thus determine the extent of Western monitoring capabilities.

Monitor

The entire electronic "footprint" of the satellite-to-earth transmissions falls well within the Australian outback. Neither Soviet nor East-bloc diplomats are allowed to travel to the area, and Australian intelligence agents monitor each visitor flying into Alice Springs or entering a car at the town's airport.

The airport is a busy one: At least twice a week, giant US C-141 Starlifter transport planes haul tons of magnetic tape back to the US for analysis by the National Security Agency at its Fort Meade, Md., headquarters. There is also a radio link between Fort Meade and Pine Gap.

The US Central Intelligence Agency runs the facility for the US. Australians make up half the staff, however, and the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation shares fully in the intelligence picked up at the facility. "We have no complaints about the level of cooperation and sharing," says Beazley.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Italy's 'snipers' cause havoc

By Barry Moody

ROME, (Reuters): Italy's political "snipers" have hit their target again and again.

No blood has flowed but the government was mortally wounded and the budget has been riddled with holes by an army of hidden enemies.

The complexities of Italian politics have spawned a colourful lexicon of expressions that baffle the newcomer but neatly convey meaning to the initiated.

In keeping with the nature of Italian politics where conflict is the norm, and the average Italian's fascination with firearms, most of these terms are inspired by warfare or hunting.

Sharpshooters, snipers, ambushes, target, riddled with shot, and crossfire are all in daily use to describe the political situation.

But recently these terms acquired new force as the unhappy five-party coalition government of Christian Democrat Prime Minister Giovanni Goria ran into repeated ambushes staged by its own deputies.

Secret

Unlike many parliamentary democracies, Italy has secret voting in Parliament except on confidence motions.

This means rebellious deputies can and often do vote against party orders with impunity, running no risk of being identified.

Hence the expression "snipers" to denote deputies who attack the government from deep cover. Their action can be devastating.

The motives of parliamentary "snipers" vary from personal vendettas against ministers, through a desire to change the government so that cabinet jobs will again come up for grabs, to a well-defined political strategy.

The phenomenon has been a headache for governments since World War II but Goria, at 44

Italy's youngest prime minister, is having a particularly bad time in his first experience at the job.

His efforts to get the 1988 budget through parliament had subjected him to repeated torture at the hands of the "sharpshooters."

The budget has been "ambushed" six times so far, playing havoc with Goria's plans to keep the huge state deficit below 103,500 billion lire (\$84 billion).

Last month the government of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals had to resort to six confidence votes to protect its revenue raising plans.

Confidence

The confidence votes are open and under present rules this is the only way to pull the secret party rebels into line.

But the need to resort repeatedly to this device has humiliated Goria's government, clearly illustrating its weakness and its lack of solid, reliable parliamentary majority.

The tormented passage of the budget bill came amidst a debate among the main political parties on reforms to combat the country's chronic instability.

And it fuelled a campaign by Socialist leader and former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, one of Italy's most powerful politicians, to abolish the secret vote.

In a major speech Craxi said it was a peculiarly Italian anachronism. Describing the secret vote as a "cancer," he said its abolition was unavoidable and a quid pro quo for any other institutional reforms.

Referring to Goria's problems, he said: "The executive is unable to approve the fundamental laws of its programme, often not even financial laws which are also subjected to the obligatory secret vote with the results, ranging from drama to farce, which everyone can see at the moment."

Key strategic mistakes made

Gorbachev's reform programme may be in serious trouble

By David Francis

WASHINGTON: If Soviet Communist Party chief Mikhail Gorbachev faced primary elections as American presidential candidates do, Washington economist Jan Vanous would be supplying ammunition for his opponents.

Vanous, a Czech-born economist, certainly recognises, as does Gorbachev, the need for the Soviet Union to build a modern, competitive economy.

He believes, however, that the Soviet leader has made some key strategic mistakes that not only have resulted in a discouraging economic performance for the Soviet Union last year but have also put his programme in peril.

Last year the Soviet economic plan called for a 4.1 per cent

growth in the net material product (NMP), a communist measure of national output. The actual growth rate was a real 2.3 per cent.

A broader measure, gross domestic product, showed a deceleration from 4.5 per cent in 1986 to 3.3 per cent in real terms in 1987.

Poor

This news, Vanous warns, will undoubtedly be exploited by Gorbachev's conservative opponents, noting that this was the second worst Soviet growth performance since World War II.

"Gorbachev's only hope is that he can talk some sense into the majority of his colleagues at the top and argue that poor economic performance last year makes it all the more urgent to

fully implement all aspects of his perestroika programme," writes Vanous in his consulting firm's weekly PlanEcon Report dealing with Soviet and Eastern European economic affairs.

If Gorbachev has his way at a special party conference in June, he will win support for further economic reforms.

Where did perestroika go astray?

Vanous believes the fatal flaw was its failure, under pressure from such conservatives as Yegor Ligachev, a Central Committee member and chief party ideologist, to put reform in agriculture on the front burner rather than consigning it to the back burner.

In contrast, the Chinese government did give farm reform top

priority, offering China's multitudinous peasants incentives to work harder and earn more. The result has been several years of economic growth at rates higher than 5 per cent.

The advantage of agricultural reform is that it produces quick results, Vanous notes. Given financial encouragement and the means, farmers can have a better supply of vegetables on the store shelves within 18 months. Farmers will see to it that more fruit is picked and delivered safely as soon as the next crop comes along.

Saved

"Ordinary Soviet citizens will enthusiastically embrace any Soviet politician(s) who will give them an opportunity to buy more, even at higher prices," says Vanous.

As it is, Soviet personal incomes are rising, but an estimated 73 per cent of that increase has been saved, because there are not enough goods that people want to buy.

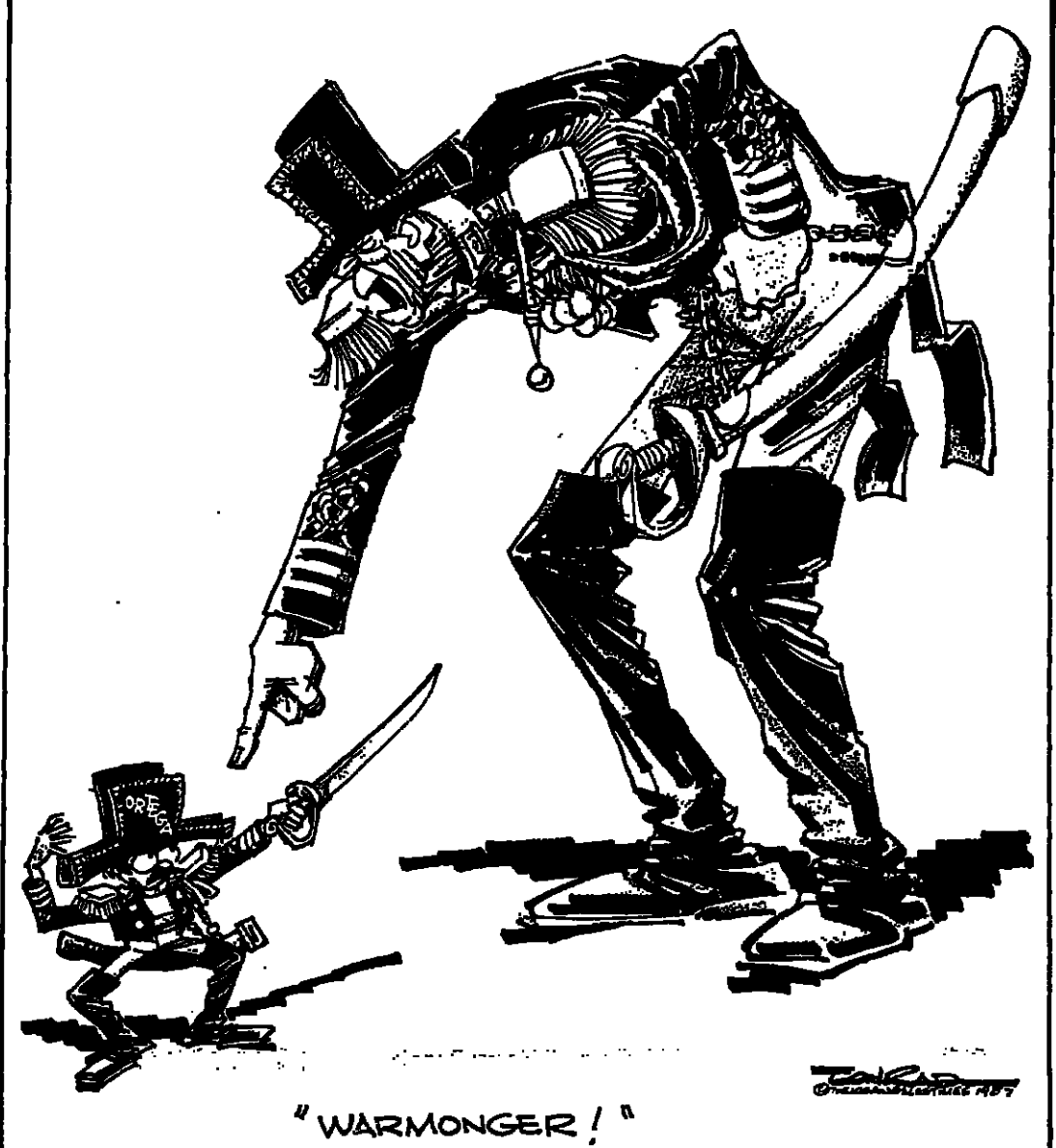
Vanous believes the Soviet leadership should have allowed a sharp increase in imports of consumer goods from the West and the Third World. These goods could have been priced several times higher than their Soviet counterparts to soak up the extra purchasing power. Some of that excess money, by the way, has resulted from the sharp decline in the output of liquor as a conscious government policy to reduce its harm on workers and the economy.

Another flaw in perestroika, says Vanous, is that Soviet industry has not shifted more of its investment from new plant and structures toward modern machinery and equipment — a shift that would produce faster modernisation. Nor has it boosted technological imports from the West, partly because of chauvinistic attitudes about Soviet technology rather than a shortage of finances.

Any industrial reform takes longer to produce visible results than farm reform.

Gorbachev may not have to curry favour of voters in free elections. But he will face his party colleagues with what Vanous terms "the worst political mistake of his career" — a neglect of Soviet consumers.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



Open-door policy led to corruption

Economic policy of Sadat in the dock

By Nejla Sammakia

CAIRO, (AP): Anwar Sadat won the Nobel peace prize for his peace agreement with Israel, the admiration of the West for his social and political reforms and a reputation at home as a military hero.

But in the years leading up to his assassination in 1981 by Muslim extremists, many of his subjects turned against him.

The economic policies of those latter years of Sadat's rule will be recalled in Egyptian court today, when the former president's family returns for a hearing to determine whether the government can confiscate property the Sadat family acquired through corruption.

Although the case against Sadat's brother Esmat and 10 members of Esmat's immediate family is connected only remotely to the former president, the late president's detractors contend it is the economic policy of the Sadat presidency itself that will be in the dock. They contend that Sadat's open-door approach led to the corrupt practices his brother was tried for and convicted of.

Corruption

"Corruption increased in President Sadat's time," said Khaled Mohieddin, head of the opposition National Unionist Progressive Party, an umbrella group of Marxists and Nasserites. "People just grabbed money and ran away."

Like Sadat, Mohieddin was a member of the Revolution Command Council that ended the monarchy in 1952. The council acted under Gamal Abdel Nasser, Republican Egypt's first president and Sadat's predecessor.

An appellate court considering the Esmat verdict in 1983 absolved Anwar Sadat of wrongdoing.

"The acts committed by Esmat Sadat and his family do not detract from the purity and integrity of the late President Sadat, and the dossier of the case is devoid of anything indicating he knew of these acts," the court said. But Esmat Sadat allegedly amassed an illegal fortune, despite later-disclosed efforts by the

President to stop his brother profiting on their relationship.

Esmat's activities were so blatant that, according to a Mubarak confidant, President Hosni Mubarak told Esmat on the first anniversary of Sadat's assassination: "Your stench has spread throughout the country. I'm not going to protect anyone."

Arrested

Shortly afterward, Esmat was arrested and tried. He, three sons and seven other family members were convicted of 24 counts of influence peddling, black marketing and bribery, as eager crowds outside the courthouse cheered. "Long live justice."

The family members' property was sequestered, and Esmat and three of his sons served nine months of a one-year prison term. The maximum sentences would have been five years. Today, the court will decide about confiscating their wealth, estimated at 18 million Egyptian pounds (\$8.2 million).

The court today will have three options: to abandon the sequestration; to extend the sequestration; or to confiscate the assets, thereby turning over the money to the government.

"Esmat and his children were a dangerous burden on Anwar Sadat in his life and after his death," said Moussa Sabry, a Sadat confidant who writes a regular column at the government's Al Akhbar newspaper.

Trial

"When you see they traded, and stole, and have millions, of course they used his name.... People used to be intimidated into doing what they wanted.... Some people say he was not responsible for his brothers, but of course it affects."

Esmat's trial spotlighted "inflation," the open-door economic policy that Sadat came up with in the 1970s. With its loopholes, it created many Esmats, a class of the newly rich. Additionally, it created public frustration over a massive influx of flashy imports, from cars to designer sunglasses, that were unaffordable for most.

The policy served mainly private interests and foreign companies in joint ventures.

China reforms bring wealth to some but anger to others

By Mark O'Neill

BEIJING, (Reuters): Reforms led by Deng Xiaoping have raised living standards for China's 200 million city dwellers but have also led to widespread discontent over inequality of income and opportunity, says one of the country's pioneer opinion pollsters.

The reforms have changed the face of China, overturning values and attitudes that lasted for the first 30 years of communist rule, according to Bai Nanfang, an economist with the elite Economic System Reform Institute.

The institute has played a key role in formulating many of the far-reaching reforms implemented under Deng since 1978 and it was the first organisation to conduct opinion polls here.

"Now the biggest complaint is lack of opportunity," said Bai, a new breed of cadre clad in non-traditional tinted brown glasses, shiny black leather trousers and two-tone sweaters.

"City people are dissatisfied that others earn more and have a higher social status than they do and that they don't have the chance to catch up with them," he said.

Challenge

These rising expectations illustrate the complex challenge the leadership has set itself in trying to bring its wide-ranging reforms to the cities.

The reforms began in the countryside in 1978 and worked extremely well, resulting in record harvests in 1984 that persuaded the leadership to tackle the cities.

"The reforms succeeded in the countryside because they met the demands of farmers — freedom to grow what they want and the chance to solve the problem of feeding and clothing themselves," Bai said.

"But city people have much bigger expectations of the reforms. They already have cradle-to-gravarium security,

guaranteed work and wages. What they want is rapidly increasing incomes and the good things of life they see on television that foreigners have.

"And in the cities, there are many more vested interests to be upset," he said, citing the example of medicine.

"Free medicine has led to colossal waste. So we proposed a small charge for buying medicine, to persuade people not to buy what they do not really need. But this is hard for people to accept psychologically when they got it for nothing before."

Much of the urban anger over reforms has focussed on price increases, which last year were among the highest since 1949.

Anger

Bai said the official media were in part responsible for this anger, since they had only portrayed the good aspects of the reforms and not the bad ones.

"The media showed a peasant who had bought an aircraft and a village where everyone had a colour television. City people asked why they could not buy an aircraft. The media should have explained how poor most peasants are," he said.

Income disparity is a new and sensitive problem for China. Under Mao Tsetung, the party enforced equal pay, with narrow

differences between different groups and the privileges of party members paid, discreetly, in kind and not in money.

But Deng has changed all that. "To be rich is glorious" is his slogan, and the press has given lavish coverage to farmers who earn 10,000 (\$2,700) a year and factory chiefs or private traders with double that thanks to good management.

Deng's argument is that Mao's egalitarianism led to "poverty for all" and what he is offering is letting some get rich first and everyone rich later on.

But the average city wage in China is less than \$50 yuan (\$230) a year. The reaction of most city people to millionaire peasants or traders is envy and resentment.

"Take bus drivers," Bai said. "They ask why they earn less than half what taxi drivers get. They say either make my pay equal to that of the cabbies or let me drive a cab instead."

The resentment is stronger because, in China, few people choose their own job. Nearly all are allocated jobs by the state. So the bus drivers do not feel, as those in the West do, that they have at least chosen their vocation," he said.

Go-slow

Beijing bus drivers staged a go-slow for several weeks in the winter of 1985/86 to protest at this inequality. It was not reported in the official press, which rarely mentions industrial disputes, go-slows or strikes.

There had been similar protests in other cities.

Another major source of discontent was that it was almost impossible to change your social status, Bai said. "In theory, China is an egalitarian society. In practice, it is divided into three classes — cadres, workers and peasants."

The cadre class includes teachers, athletes, artists and journalists as well as government and party officials.



Deng Xiaoping

Japan debates the role of its next emperor

By David Buils

TOKYO, (UPI): In hushed, respectful tones the Japanese are beginning to discuss the unmentionable — the coming death of Emperor Hirohito and the impact it will have on Japan's future.

The ailing 86-year-old emperor underwent intestinal surgery in September and has yet to fully recover, leaving his more strenuous duties to his son and heir, Crown Prince Akihito, 54.

To discuss Hirohito's death, even privately, is considered impolite among the Japanese, who still refer to him obliquely as "tenno heika," or "lord son of heaven."

But the apparent nearness of the monarch's death is beginning to loosen tongues.

"After the emperor is gone, there will be a review of our national life," said Toshiaki Kawahara, an author of 12 books on the history of Japan's 124 emperors. "There will be a new way of living."

Both the political right and left are ready to seize the opportunity to push their agenda to strengthen or weaken the emperor's role.

Akihito favours a monarchy modelled on the British royalty — popular but powerless.

Symbol

The small but vocal right wing regard Hirohito as the last important symbol of Japan's humiliating downfall in World War II, and say when he is gone, "the Japanese will suddenly gain a new spirit free from the yoke of defeat."

Flush with this new nationalism, the country once again will become a world military power with the emperor playing a greater role, they say.

Japan's military leaders invoked the emperor's name throughout the war to win public approval for their policies. Many soldiers willingly gave their lives for him.

Anti-imperialists will use the change in emperors to question the logic of maintaining the imperial household on a piece of Tokyo real estate worth nearly \$270 billion at an annual cost to taxpayers of \$22.5 million.

The debate will be fierce, but any radical change is unlikely.

Survey

A survey last year found only 5 per cent of Japanese agree with rightists who say the emperor's authority should increase. Only 11 per cent want to do away with the system altogether.

Most — 81 per cent — favour keeping the emperor's current role as a symbol of Japan.

Nevertheless, a change in 2,600-year-old chrysanthemum throne will not pass quietly.

"The Japanese will be released, liberated from the memories of our devastating defeat," said Hideaki Kase, a conservative author. "The revision of the (pacifist) constitution will be easier. It will be easier to increase our defence capabilities."

Hirohito's funeral and Akihito's enthronement will test Japan's adherence to the democratic constitution imposed on it by the victorious allies in 1946.

The constitution reduced the emperor's role from a living god to a symbol of the state and forbade the government from participating in religious activities.

But an emperor's enthronement ceremonies are based on Shintoism, the official state religion prior to World War II. Government funding of the

Shinto ceremonies, which already has been announced, is sure to blur the separation of church and state doctrine.

That doesn't seem to bother most Japanese, who view Shintoism as more of a cultural tradition than a religion.

Choice

"I am a Buddhist," said Junya Yano, chairman of the Buddhist-affiliated Clean Government Party. "The imperial house believes in Shintoism. It is matter of individual choice."

But for the right wing, government funding of the Shinto ceremonies will be a moral victory.

"Japanese would go hungry if necessary to support the emperor and the imperial family," said Shizuka Kamei, a hawkish diet (parliament) member from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"Of course there will be the same number of ceremonies held as when the current emperor was enthroned. No change, no reduction. That is the consensus of the Japanese," Kamei said.

Many of the ceremonies, which symbolised the emperor's elevation to god status, will be performed despite Hirohito's renunciation of deification after the war.

"The emperor's renunciation of his divine status was forced brutally by the victors," Kase said. "Now there is no one to force that, so they can restore the emperor to his former status."

But that prediction runs counter to the desires of the crown prince.

Akihito's liberal leanings are well known. He is said to have opposed former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's drive to increase Japan's defence spending and has vowed to remain only a symbol of Japan when he becomes the emperor.

كشاكش

TV CORNER

Films and football dominate viewing

FILMS and football dominate viewing this week on KTV 2. Adventurers and crime busters take over feature films that will be shown on at 10.30 pm on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Movie entertainment begins tonight with *Damnation Alley*, starring Jan-Michael Vincent, George Peppard and Paul Winfield. The film is said to be a "bad adventure about survivors of a nuclear holocaust."

Monday's movie *Chase* seems to be an unknown film starring Jennifer Daniels and Robert Woods. It is the story of a lawyer who single-handedly fights crime on the street.

Sharon Gless and Stephen

Ryan feature in Tuesday's feature film, *Palm*, a police thriller about two men who pose as police officers in the anti-drugs force and commit crime.

Another film this week is the 1972 production, *The Culpepper Cattle Company*, featuring Gary Grimes, Billy Green Bush and Bo Hopkins. It is a routine yarn about the "coming of age" in post-Civil War Texas, of a young man who signs on as a cook's help on a cattle ranch. The film lasting 92 minutes is directed by Dick Richards.

Tonight's viewing is not interrupted by football. However, all programmes before the news have been cancelled on Sunday and Wednesday.

Two serials return on KTV 2 this week. *Punkey Brewster*, the story of an orphan girl adopted by a kindhearted man, is back at 6.30 pm on Tuesday. A comedy featuring British comedian Ronnie Barker. *Open All Hours*, replaces *What A Country* on Fridays at 10 pm.

KTV 1 opens earlier at 9 am on Tuesday, a holiday on the occasion of Isra Wal Meraj. An English feature film for children will be shown at 10.10 am and transmission continues until well past midnight. The timings of KTV 2 depend on the football matches that will be shown this week.



Sharon Gless stars in *Palm*, Tuesday's feature film on KTV 2

This week on KTV 2

- SUNDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Cartoons
 - 3.45 Ninth Arab-Gulf Football Tournament: Qatar vs Iraq
 - 5.45 Saudi Arabia vs. UAE
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Hot Shots: "Riot." Amanda is jailed for writing on a taboo subject.
 - 9.30 Foley Square: "24 Hours." Alex is in trouble and welcomes help. Comedy.
 - 10.00 TV Bloopers
 - 10.30 Best-Seller: Space: part 5 traces the development of space technology in the 1960s.
 - 11.30 Report from Saudi Arabia on the Arab Gulf Football Tournament.
 - 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- MONDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Cartoons
 - 3.50 Arab Gulf Football Tournament: Oman vs Kuwait.
 - 6.10 Yogi's Treasure Hunt: cartoons
 - 6.30 The Animal Express: this episode examines the life of penguins in captivity.
 - 7.30 Don't Wait Up: comedy about a British family. After a troubled marriage, a man has to face opposition at work.
 - 8.00 News in English
- TUESDAY**
- 8.40 The Law and Harry McGraw: "Angela's Secret." Eleanor is against accepting a criminal's case. McGraw is convinced the man is innocent.
 - 9.30 Horizon: tonight's episode examines the history of architecture from the time of the Egyptians to the present days.
 - 10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "Chase." Starring: Jennifer Daniels and Robert Woods. The story of a lawyer who is involved in a criminal plot.
 - 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- WEDNESDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Rainbow Brite: an animated feature for young viewers.
 - 6.30 Punkey Brewster: "Accidents Happen." The children in Punkey's class are told to select a career. Punkey's choice of becoming a space-woman catches on.
 - 7.00 Beyond 2000: this Australian series examines the advances in science and technology. This episode examines the research on solar energy, computerised banking and holographs.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 You and the Law: a local programme
 - 8.50 Heart of the City:



Soleil Moon Fry plays *Punkey Brewster*, Tuesdays.

- THURSDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Cartoons
 - 3.50 Arab Gulf Football Tournament: Saudi Arabia vs Iraq
- FRIDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Cartoons
 - 3.50 Arab Gulf Football Tournament: Kuwait vs Iraq
 - 5.50 Bahrain vs Qatar
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 J.J. Starbuck: Dale Robertson plays a millionaire who helps solve crime.
 - 9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Walking on Fire."
 - 10.00 Perfect Strangers: Balki embarrasses cousin Larry at a painting exhibition. Comedy.
 - 10.30 Falcon Crest: this soap opera continues with the tussle for power between Angela and Melissa.
 - 11.30 Report from Saudi Arabia.
 - 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- SATURDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Cartoons
 - 3.50 Arab Gulf Football Tournament: Saudi Arabia vs Iraq

KTV 1 weekly highlights

- SUNDAY**
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laeb: a daily cartoon serial for children.
 - 5.30 Al Manahil: a programme for young viewers.
 - 7.30 Diwanat Shuara Al Nabat: a poetry session featuring Nabat poets.
 - 10.50 Variety show: featuring singer Salwa Qutairi and her troupe performing at the 1987 Jerash Festival.
- MONDAY**
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children: a weekly show for young viewers.
 - 7.30 Aspecial programme will be broadcast live from the Grand Mosque, Kuwait, on the occasion of Isra Wal Meraj.
 - 11.00 Al Shariyah: Arabic feature film, starring
- TUESDAY**
- 9.25 Sarraf Kawab Al Talib: A cartoon serial for children.
 - 10.15 English Feature Film, starring Andrew McCarthy, for young viewers.
 - 2.00 Hub Wa Takseba: Arabic play, featuring Yahya Fakhrani, Wahid Saif, Nabil Nuruddin. Directed by Hussein Hamid.
 - 8.00 Operette: performed by Shaadi Al Khaleej,

- WEDNESDAY**
- 5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today. A pictorial look at Kuwait—past and present.
 - 7.05 With Students: a weekly quiz show for children of public schools in Kuwait. Al Jahra vs Abdullah Bin Al Zubair Schools. Hosted by Essa Rushoud.
 - 10.50 Music Studio: A local variety show featuring such singers as
- THURSDAY**
- 11.30 Al Islam Wal Insan: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Abdul Suboor Shahin.
 - 12.00 Ma Da'a Wa Anhami Min Akhbar Jahannam: a weekly serial featuring Sheza Salem, Khalil Rifai, Mohammad Hussain Abdul Rahim.
 - 4.15 The Saint Roger Moore plays the debonair detective Simon Templar.
 - 7.30 Bahath An Al Saadah: ep. 1 of weekly Arabic serial, starring Samir Ghanim, Hassan Mus-

- FRIDAY**
- 4.00 Hub Min Al Sama'a: Arabic feature film, starring Najat Ali, Mohammad Ameen, Hussein Riyadh, Iham Hussein. A girl causes conflict between a young man and his family.
 - 8.00 Nadwa Al Usbook: part two of weekly seminar on Kuwait.
 - 10.45 Khurooj An Al Ma'lauf: part one of local Arabic play featuring Hayat Al Fahad, Sulaiman Yaseen, Ahmad Al Saleh, Social.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.10 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laeb: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 Ghabab Al Sahra: episode 10: daily Arabic serial.
- 5.45 Open University
- 6.30 News Summary
- 6.55 Noor Al Islam: "Al Isra Wal Meraj." Tonight's episode examines the ascension of the Prophet (PBUH). Guests are Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael, Sheikh Musleh Mohammad Biyomi. Prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qadir.
- 7.25 Nazrat Alal Alam: cultural film
- 7.40 Security and Citizens: presented by Ahmad Sharqawi.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.05 Surag Al Simt: Arabic serial: ep. 11: starring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Ghaith, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmad Badr.
- 10.50 Dafatar Al Ayam: an interview with lawyer Mufeeda Abdul Rahman, who will discuss women and the law.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News via Satellite
- 12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 2.30 Opening and Holy Quran



Christina Applegate plays Kelly Bundy in *Married With Children*, tonight on KTV 2.

- 2.38 Cartoons
- 2.46 Heathcliffe (cartoons)
- 3.08 KTV message on the 9th Gulf Football Championships.
- 3.55 Live telecast from Saudi Arabia: Kuwait vs. Bahrain.
- 6.00 Cartoons
- 6.30 The Zoo Family: "Router and Otter." Hilary returns penniless to Australia and plans to earn some money through illegal means.
- 7.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: "Termite and Endearments." A look at white termites; cheetah, gazelles and ant-eaters.
- 7.30 Married with Children: "Married Without Children." Mercy and Steve volunteer to babysit for Kelly and Bud and find out bringing up children can't be learnt from manuals.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Houston Knights: "Secrets". After an accident doctors suspect a police officer of having AIDS. His friends try to help him overcome the depression.
- 9.30 Silk Road: "The Horsemen of Turkey." This episode examines the history of the Seljuk dynasty.
- 10.30 Feature Film: "Damnation Alley." An adventure about the survivors of a holocaust and their trek to Albany where they suspect there is other life. Duration: 90 minutes.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

FM Services

- 0800 Easy-Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy-Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Spanish Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2300 Indian Classical Hour
- 2340 Easy Listening
- 0200 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Bichitren Qaul
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Jaizah
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Dhamak
- 2100 Closedown

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.43 am
- Zuhr 11.58
- Asr 3.22 pm
- Maghreb 5.55
- Isha 7.11

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait**
- Al-Mojil Pharmacy
- Mojil Bldg., Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
- Al Ghazwa Pharmacy
- Kazem Bldg., Khalid Bin Walid St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Ribah Pharmacy
- Rihab Complex, Tunis St.
- Salmiya and Rumaythiya
- Al Quds Pharmacy
- Abdul Karim Khalifa
- Maz'al Bldg., Arman St.
- Fahabehel
- Al Fulaj Pharmacy
- Makkah St., near Safeway.
- Fheel
- Farwaniya
- Al Tawaan Pharmacy
- Jara Commercial Centre.
- No. 3, Main St.
- Jahra
- Al Khalid Pharmacy
- Opp. Cooperative Society

BBC World Services

- 30 From the Weeklies
- 45 Network UK
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 A Jolly Good Show
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Personal View
- 1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humph!
- 15 Letter from America
- 30 People and Politics
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Chain Reaction
- 30 Meridian
- 1200 Radio Newswel
- 15 Multitrack 3
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Network UK
- 45 Good Books
- 1400 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
- 1500 Radio Newswel
- 15 Sportsround
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 30 Meridian
- 1700 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus**
- The Monster Shark
- Starring: Valentine, Michelle
- Al Sahiya**
- Arabic play
- Al Hamra
- Al Mal'oub (Arabic)
- Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan
- Drive-In**
- Shahab Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)
- Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Alim, Mirvat Ameen
- Fahad Open-Air**
- Mere Hamdam Mere Dost (Hindi)
- Al Firdous**
- Maang Bhara Sajna (Hindi)
- Starring: Jeetendra, Rekha, Moushumi
- Al Fahabehel**
- Irupatham
- (Malayalam)
- Al Jahra**
- Jumping Jack Flash
- Granada**
- When A Stranger Calls
- Salaikhat**
- Li'man Shaf Li'man Dara (Arabic)
- Al Jebel**
- Oridathu (Malayalam)
- Almadi Drive-In**
- North By North West

French Teacher

REQUIRED

Must have French as mother tongue.

Ring 5621701/5622701

Attention U.S. taxpayers

A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, will conduct seminars at the U.S. Embassy on March 20, 21 and 22. Topics will include preparation of income tax returns, extensions of filing, individual retirement accounts and exclusion of income (Form 2555). Interested persons may contact the U.S. Embassy on 242-4151, ext. 212 for more details.

REQUIRED

- 1) A structural draughtsman.
 - 2) An architectural draughtsman.
- Both must have minimum 7 years of experience in Kuwait and transferable visa. Those interested please tel. 5335650.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

Rock 'n' Romance

Kuwait Players present *Rock 'n' Romance*, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

SOCIAL

Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella

The 88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year. Don't leave children at home. For reservations contact Connie - 3947693; Annette - 3903480 before March 15.

Lunchon Party

Friends of Great Ormond Street Hospital Lunch will be held on March 17, 1.30 pm, at Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact 4831339; 5636675.

Kuwait Irish Society

St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Weekend Club

The Weekend Club will hold "Summer Queen '88" contest on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at the Regency Palace Hotel. Music will be provided by two local bands and singer Adolf. An Indian/Continental buffet will be provided to guests. For reservations contact the organisers.

CINEMA

British Council

Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie,

whose happy life with his widowed American mother is transformed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown on March 16, 6 pm and March 17, 10.30 am.

This month's feature film for adults is entitled *The Emerald Forest*. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20.

Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel. 2515512.

SPORTS

Sports Festival for Children

A sports festival for Bangladeshi children will be held on April 8. All Bangladeshi children are welcome. For details contact 4840759; 4710306; 5716586.

Cricket Match

The BA Speedbird Trophy Cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and India will take place on March 15 at the KOC, Ahmadi, New Ground. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

German Sport-Stammtisch

The latest weekly German sports round-up shown on video every Tuesday at 7.30 pm at the Kamada Al Salem Hotel. Free entry. For details contact Bernhard Ilming - 4835344.

Kuwait Rally

The 1988 Kuwait International Rally will be held on March 17 and 18. The rally starts at 1 pm on Thursday from the SAS Hotel carpark. The first night's action will be in the Jahra/Doha areas. Main Control will be at Entertainment City, and the cars can be seen there between 4.30 pm and 6 pm. The cars return to SAS at 10 pm and the rally resumes at 9 am on Friday morning. Stages will be in the Maqwa and Sulabiya areas. The cars can be seen at Main Control from 12.30 pm. The rally finish is at the SAS Hotel at 5.15 pm on Friday.

HOTELS

Piano Recital

Well-known pianist Ramzi Yassa will give a recital at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom 'A', on March 15. His repertoire ranges from Bach to Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and Mozart. For reservations contact the hotel ext. 104/109.

At the Meridien

La Brasserie offers extensive buffet and a la carte service; open for lunch and dinner.

Fresh lobster promotion continues in the Versailles Restaurant, until March 17.

Al Wahba in the Sahlia Complex is one of the convenient meeting places in town for downtown office workers and shoppers.

At the Sheraton

Dine in the Hunt Room with live music by the Trio Paradise. For lunch a la carte is featured. Tarbouche on the Roof features Lebanese cuisine in Al Hamra night club on Sunday evenings.

Evening

Studying in Britain is the title of an "Open evening" which will be held at the British Council on March 14 and 15, from 5 to 8 pm, for anyone interested in studying Business Administration, Management or Finance in Britain. A wide range of information will be on display with details of courses to suit both students and professionals. (Please note that if either date is declared a public holiday then its alternative date will be March 16). For details contact the British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya. Tel. 2515512.

MUSIC

Beatles to team up again



The extended Beatles family at a recent charity concert which Paul McCartney refused to attend. (Left to right) George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono, Sean and Julian Lennon. "It's hard to stand here representing what's left," said Harrison.

By Patrick Hill

THE long feud between the Beatles is over, says Paul McCartney. Now he claims he may even team up again with George Harrison and Ringo Starr, possibly to write a song. The 45-year-old superstar, revealed the three have spent recent weeks working hard to heal the 18-year rift which started over the group's business affairs. "Things are much better between Ringo, George and me," he said at his Sussex home. "We are seeing more of each other and are going out with each other more. So it looks like things are much better. There are still some things to work out, but it's a definite sign. It may be that we will get together to write a song or something. But that's a long way off at the moment, although it's something we're talking about. It would be good to do something together." McCartney said he was hurt



The fab four — Ringo, George, Paul and John at the height of their '60s fame.

by reports that he spent £15,000 hiring a private jet to leave the recent San Remo pop festival because George was on the same bill. "It isn't true," he said. "We didn't even know we were all going to be there at the same time. But some people seem to want to exaggerate our problems." The new attempt to put aside his quarrel with his former par-

On ITV's Aspel and Company recently, George said: "For about ten years I didn't really know Paul and never saw much of him. But more recently we've been hanging out, getting to know each other, going out to dinner and having a laugh." He also believes the three could work together again. "But it won't be like the Beatles. If people expected that, they're going to be disappointed." Ringo revealed that the three were once offered £50 million to appear together again for a 25-minute gig, but they refused. "I called everyone up saying 'What do you think, for 25 minutes?' But we were never going to get together." He and George talked movingly about the fourth Beatle John Lennon, shot dead outside his New York apartment by a crazed fan in December 1980. "I was stunned on that day, and I still am," says Ringo. "I still miss the man. He went out in such a stupid way, and the guy who killed him is now famous, for God's sake."

Send in the clones

THE huge success of an American television mini-series about Elvis Presley's life, entitled *Elvis And Me*, has now given a boost to a musical called simply *Elvis*. The first auditions held at the Minskoff Rehearsal Studios in New York showed how extensive the Elvis cult is. Hundreds of Elvis lookalikes lined up for a chance to sing his songs and imitate the Presley sexual mannerisms. Four Elvises were needed — a young Elvis, an older Elvis and two understudies. Many of the applicants could be ruled out at once. Except for their Pompadour haircuts, they bore no resemblance to the legen-



dary singer. Peace in The Valley, I'm All Shook Up — the Elvis songs went on and on until just a few genuine contenders were left. These not only really looked like him but had genuine singing talent and did not overdo the gyrations. The musical will tour the United States this summer, with a two-month engagement at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, where Presley performed almost 700 times between 1969 and 1977.



The Who: (left to right) Entwistle, Daltrey, Jones and Townsend

The Who: 25 years on

By Andrew Billing

MEMBERS of The Who pop group, now in comparatively sober middle age, returned to the scene of their guitar-smashing heyday to celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary. The Who have sold 50 million copies of their 12 albums around the world since the first single, I'm the Face, produced when the band was still called "The High Numbers." It was at the Marquee Club in Soho, London, nearly a quarter of a century ago, that, to the delight of Fleet Street photographers, Pete Townsend, the writer of most of the songs, destroyed the first of a long line of electric guitars. It was said that he had been influenced by a lecturer at art college who had demonstrated the technique to illustrate some point, now long forgotten, to his students. The years have done what once, in the days of drinks and drugs and rock and roll, looked impossible: given The Who the patina of respectability. Roger Daltrey, the lead singer, was a strip-metal worker at a factory in Acton, west London, before joining The Who. Now, at 43, he lives on a high country estate in East Sussex, has made a TV commercial for American Express and is working in two feature film projects.

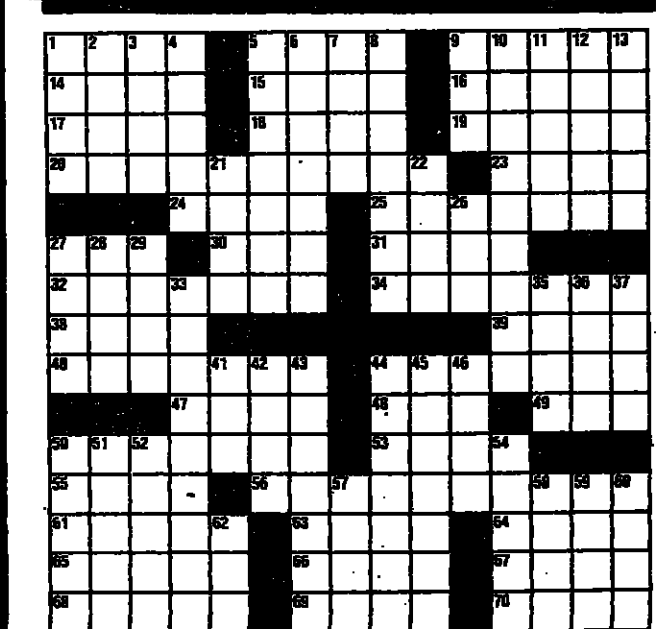
Dirty Dancing on top

- LOS ANGELES, (UPI): The top 20 albums, based on Billboard's survey of sales and broadcast play:
1. Dirty Dancing — Soundtrack.
 2. Faith — George Michael.
 3. Kick — Inxs.
 4. Bad — Michael Jackson.
 5. Tiffany — Tiffany.
 6. Skyscraper — David Lee Roth.
 7. Hysteria — Def Leppard.
 8. Out Of The Blue — Debbie Gibson.
 9. The Lonesome Jubilee — John Cougar Mellencamp.
 10. Whenever You Need Somebody — Rick Astley.
 11. Good Morning, Vietnam — Soundtrack.
 12. Whitney — Whitney Houston.
 13. Nothing Like The Sun — Sting.
 14. Blow Up Your Video — AC/DC.
 15. Heaven on Earth — Belinda Carlisle.
 16. Tunnel Of Love — Bruce Springsteen.
 17. Appetite For Destruction — Guns and Roses.
 18. Permanent Vacation — Aerosmith.
 19. Cloud Nine — George Harrison.
 20. Make It Last Forever — Keith Sweat.
- The top 20 Country and Western singles:
1. Life Turned Her That Way — Ricky Van Shelton.
 2. Turn It Loose — The Judds.
 3. This Missin' You Heart Of Mine — Sawyer Brown.
 4. Love Will Find Its Way To You — Reba McEntire.
 5. Touch And Go Crazy — Lee Greenwood.
 6. Shouldn't It Be Easier Than This — Charley Pride.
 7. I Wanna Dance With You — Eddie Rabbit.
 8. Famous Last Words Of A Fool — George Strait.
 9. Wilder Days — Ballie and The Boys.
 10. Santa Fe — The Bellamy Brothers.
 11. I'll Always Come Back — K. T. Oslin.
 12. I Didn't (Every Chance I Had) — Johnny Rodriguez.
 13. Timeless And True Love — The McCarters.
 14. It's Only Make Believe — Ronnie McDowell.
 15. It's Such A Small World — Rodney Crowell and Rosanne Cash.
 16. Too Gone Too Long — Randy Travis.
 17. Strangers Again — Holly Dunn.
 18. Cry, Cry, Cry — Highway 101.
 19. The Last Resort — T. Graham Brown.
 20. Everybody's Sweetheart — Vince Gill.
- The top 20 singles in Britain for the week compiled by New Musical Express:
1. Beat Dis — Bomb The Bass.
 2. I Should Be So Lucky — Kylie Minogue.
 3. Joe Le Taxi — Vanessa Paradis.
 4. Suedhead — Morrissey.
 5. Together Forever — Rick Astley.
 6. Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean.
 7. Doctorin' The House — Cold Cut.
 8. Hazy Shade Of Winter — The Bangles.
 9. Gimme Hope Jo'anna — Eddy Grant.
 10. Tell It To My Heart — Taylor Dayne.
 11. Crash — Primitives.
 12. Good Groove — Derek B.
 13. That's The Way It Is — Mel and Kim.
 14. Dominion — Sisters Of Mercy.
 15. Ship Of Fools — Erasure.
 16. C'mon Everybody — Eddie Cochran.
 17. I Get Weak — Belinda Carlisle.
 18. I Think We're Alone Now — Tiffany.
 19. Love Is Contagious — Taja Sevelle.
 20. Tower Of Strength — The Mission.



It's going to be a dirty night.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Kind of judgment
 - 5 Substance
 - 9 Feels compassion for
 - 14 Siren of Broadway
 - 15 Canadian-born singer
 - 16 Call to a bellhop
 - 17 Allegre
 - 18 Fasten securely
 - 19 Inclination
 - 20 Board game
 - 23 16th cen. fortified house
 - 24 Lincoln or Ford
 - 25 Famous Falls
 - 27 Wife of Saturn
 - 30 Sun. discourse
 - 31 Director-author Kazan
 - 32 Ravines
 - 34 Bishop — Tutu
 - 38 Nanny, in Nagaland
 - 39 Fencer's weapon
 - 40 Purplish red
 - 44 Find fault with
 - 47 Oceans
 - 48 A Gardner
 - 49 Orench
 - 50 Companion
 - 53 "The Seventh" — Mason film
 - 55 Periods of time
 - 56 Locale of a Bret Harte story
 - 61 Composer Ned
 - 63 Gold cloth
 - 64 Nerve cell process
 - 65 Santa —
 - 66 Woe is me!
 - 67 Nothing more than
 - 68 Antiquated
 - 69 Slight coloration
 - 70 Der — Adenauer
- DOWN
- 1 Large slice
 - 2 Educational TV program
 - 3 Actor Guinness
 - 4 Innuit garb
 - 5 Dugong's relative
 - 6 Charms
 - 7 Actor Tamiroff
 - 8 Having claws, like an eagle
 - 9 Toward the stern
 - 10 Casino contests
 - 11 Book of the Bible
 - 12 Stage direction
 - 13 Inscribed stone pillar
 - 21 Fawn over
 - 22 World's longest river
 - 26 Three-toed sloths
 - 27 Old Irish alphabet
 - 28 Powerful cat
 - 29 Cinder
 - 33 Items for Karpov
 - 35 Musical work
 - 36 "Quo Vadis?" role
 - 37 Kind of sleep or thought
 - 41 Classic starter
 - 42 Canvas cover, for short
 - 43 Home of Tennyson's "illy maid"
 - 44 Alley Oop, for one
 - 45 Hillary's conquest
 - 46 Artless
 - 48 One of the Moluccas
 - 51 Maine college town
 - 52 Facial feature
 - 54 Camel's Persian relative
 - 57 Wife of Silva
 - 58 Feat for Fleming
 - 59 Civil wrong
 - 60 Partner of snick
 - 62 The merry month

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
MAKE DECLARER GUESS

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 5
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A K 6 3
♣ 10 7 3

WEST
♠ J 9 6 3
♥ 6
♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ A 9 6 2

EAST
♠ A K 7 2
♥ 10 9 8 5 2
♦ 9 8
♣ 8 5

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 4
♥ Q J 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ K Q J 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

You could write a book about deceptive plays—indeed, a very good one was written about a year ago by Mike Lawrence. The trouble with many bits of deception by a defender is that they run the risk of fooling partner rather than declarer, sometimes with catastrophic results; obviously, declarer does not suffer from that handicap. Therefore, the safest falsecards by a defender are those relatively simple ones where, even if partner is taken in, no great

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
There will be a certain amount of confusion but you will know how to deal with it. You should do all you can to avoid attracting attention to yourself. Do not take everything at its face value. Be more tolerant.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You should try to show a little more goodwill and forbearance. You must not rely too much on your powers of persuasion. Do not turn your back on changes. Be loyal.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
You will feel more enterprising but you must still avoid acting on impulse. You should not give up too soon. You should not neglect a small injury. Be a little less selfish.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You should try harder to stick to the point. Do not allow some secondary matter to take up too much of your time. A good talk will help you to clear the air. Be attentive.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
You should try to show a little more enthusiasm. There are plenty of conventional avenues to explore before having to do something dramatic. You should stick to what is strictly practical. Be truthful.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You will be reminded of a promise you have made. There will be a good opportunity but you will have to act fast. You should not attempt too many things at once. Be a little more abstemious.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
Avoid doing anything you do not really believe in. Nor should you say what you know you do not mean. Avoid spending more than you can afford. Be tactful.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You will have something to be pleased but not smug about. There is no time to lose. You should not eat more than you need to stay the weight you have decided upon. Be curious without being inquisitive.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You should do all you can to avoid wasting time and energy. Today you will be able to reach an important decision. Try not to live for the day alone. Be responsive.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
Do not try to force the issue, rather take things as they come. You will be able to make some small improvements. You should have a little more faith in yourself. Be fair.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You should not try to have your way at all costs. The situation you are in is gradually improving but you must take great care nonetheless. You should try to be a little more patient. Be straightforward.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
Instead of bemoaning of what you have not got, enjoy what you have. You are in danger of losing sight of your objectives. Make sure you always observe speed limits. Be grateful.

كسوة

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US GDP will drop to 1.3 pc in 1989

World economy faces major slowdown next year

UNITED NATIONS, March 11. (Opecna): Ninety economic experts from 40 countries have predicted a major slowdown in world economy in 1989 unless "appropriate policies" are adopted to reduce its severity.

The experts, who have been meeting at UN headquarters since the beginning of this week, said in a statement yesterday that in anticipation of slow growth, oil exporting countries were continuing to adjust spending plans in accordance with reduced export earnings.

The meeting on short and medium-term projections for the world economy is being presided over by Nobel laureate Prof

Laurence Klein.

On the basis of present policies, says the statement issued by the experts, world economic growth is expected to be somewhat slow in 1988 and markedly so in 1989 at 2.6 per cent.

The slowdown will be led by the US economy as a relatively long period of expansion is expected to be interrupted by a decreased rate of consumer spending and a shrinking federal deficit. As a result, US GDP growth will slow down to 1.3 per cent next year.

The consequent reduction in world trade growth and reduced demand for primary com-

modities will reduce the export earnings of developing countries, further aggravating the situation of a large number of them already labouring under an excessively large debt repayment burden.

Threat

Sub-Saharan African countries will be the hardest hit, predict the experts and in the absence of adequate and timely assistance, per capita real incomes are expected to decline during the next two years of deteriorating economic performance.

Developing countries in Asia, including China, are expected to

fare much better than the world average, but the threat of increasing protectionism and the slower pace of world demand could reduce their GDP growth rates considerably compared with the buoyancy of recent years.

In Latin American countries, according to the statement, per capita income will continue to stagnate due to heavy debt payments and the slowdown in world demand for the region's exports.

The experts believe that centrally-planned economies will also experience relatively slow growth rates, with several of them facing difficulties in expanding export earnings and serv-

ing their external debt.

The economic reforms underway in the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries are expected to yield results, but only in the medium term.

Experts

Alternative economic policies, argue the experts, will make a considerable difference to the world economic outlook. If the US were to ease its monetary policies in 1989, concurrent with fiscal tightening by the administration and Congress, and if West Germany, Italy, Japan and Britain were to increase domestic demand by reducing taxes or increasing public expenditures

by moderate amounts, world output will be about a percentage point higher and world trade half a percentage point higher than in the baseline forecast.

Following the slowdown expected in 1989, world economic output is expected to accelerate somewhat, say the experts. However, any substantial improvement in the medium-term outlook will require further progress on reducing current account imbalances among industrialised countries, a resolution of the external debt problem of developing countries, and measures directed at reducing their high levels of unemployment.

Japan economic growth seen slower but still strong

TOKYO, March 11. (Reuters): Japan's economic growth has slowed from its feverish pace of late last year and is settling to a healthy, sustainable rate, economists said.

While growth will be less frenetic than in the last two quarters of 1987, the economy remains robust and is now less dependent on the stimulus of government spending, they said.

"We're past peak growth, but it was an excessive rate of expansion," said David Gerstenhaber, economist at Morgan Stanley International. "Even if it's slowing down, it's still pretty fast."

Economists said the peak was hit in the last two quarters of 1987.

In the July/September quarter the economy grew two per cent from the previous period and government economists have estimated it grew 1.5 per cent between October and December.

Growth

They have projected growth for the fiscal year ending on March 31 to be above the government's target of 3.7 per cent.

"The crest of the cycle is just behind us," said Ron Napier, economist with Salomon Brothers (Asia).

Housing, public works, business investment, inventory re-stocking, private consumption were all going great guns. "We had a carry over through February, now there are signs of slowing down."

A cooling-off in the housing boom which fuelled much of last year's growth is the clearest sign of a decline in the growth rate, economists said.

Housing starts fell 28.4 per cent in January compared to December which saw about a one per cent drop from November.

Momentum

"We don't see a continued momentum of high growth rates (in the housing sector) this year," said Keiichi Honda, research director at the Bank of Tokyo.

If, as expected, government spending on public works in the next fiscal year rises less than in the present year that will also mean less of a boost for the economy.

Jaguar sales hit record

LONDON, March 11. (AP): Jaguar Plc said yesterday that sales of luxury cars hit a record for February with 3,873 vehicles sold world-wide.

Compared with February last year, European exports rose by 28 per cent to 554 and sales to Canada jumped 42 per cent to 258, the company said in a statement.

However, US sales were down at 1,400, compared with 1,466 in February last year.

Sales to Japan, Australia and Middle East markets also rose, while British sales were up 40 per cent to 1,360.

Indonesia to boost LPG exports

JAKARTA, March 11. (Opecna): By the end of this year, Indonesia will increase its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) exports to 2.45 million tons, according to an executive of Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil company.

J.R. Oekon, Pertamina director of processing, told Opecna today that a new LPG processing plant in Arun in Aceh province coming on stream by the end of this year, would add about 1.65 million tons annually to national production.

A LPG plant in the Badak gasfield, East Kalimantan, is also to come on stream this year with an annual output of 300,000 tons.

By next year, Indonesia would become one of the largest LPG suppliers in the world, he said, adding that already the country was the world's biggest liquefied natural gas exporter.

Economists see risks ahead

British business is booming

LONDON, March 11. (Reuters): Britain's soaring pound sterling, at its highest in 18 months, took off this week from the basis of one of the fastest-growing economies in the industrial world.

Business is booming and an annual budget on March 15 will underline that, with Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson probably making new cuts in personal taxes.

"He will present a set of revenue figures that most chancellors this century would have given their eye teeth for," said Chris Chaitow, an economic affairs analyst at brokerage Morgan Grenfell Securities.

London's Evening Standard newspaper invited readers to "be your own champagne chancellor" by guessing how the riches will be divided.

Finances

"No-one can remember a time when the nation's finances were in better health," it said.

Lawson's happy dilemma on how to spend a substantial surplus is a result of slower state spending under Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and sharply higher tax revenues that have marked a sixth straight year of British



Nigel Lawson

economic rebound.

Britain has steadily boosted output since the recessionary days of 1980 and 1981, when industry and exports were savaged by high interest rates and a pound worth nearly \$2.50 — compared with around 1.8 now.

Profitability has increased and that, with a rise in company taxes in 1984, has been a major source of Lawson's estimated £4.5 billion treasure chest.

Consumer demand has been the other ingredient of the boom. Sometimes frantic activity in shops and factories is due largely to a growth in consumer buying

power as incomes have risen faster than inflation, economists add.

Add in extra cash in the form of income tax cuts last year, plus a very liberal credit policy, and the picture is one of a nation with money to burn.

"We're in a virtuous circle at the moment," said economist Ian Amstard of Chase Manhattan Securities.

Strong growth, about double the average of major developed countries at around five per cent last year, is bringing higher tax receipts.

They in turn close the budget deficit, allowing further tax cuts, which in their turn put more money in spenders' pockets and perpetuate the growth.

But many economists see risks ahead.

Growth

One of their keenest debates now is whether the country's finances will simply overheat and send inflation spiralling or whether the soothing effect of high growth will keep them ticking over sweetly.

There is a general agreement that growth will slow, if only because it is unlikely to be able to sustain this pace.

Recent oil price slide likely to turn around soon: experts

NEW YORK, March 11. (AP): World oil-producing nations, aware that they cannot afford another 1986-style market collapse, will probably succeed in bringing an end to the recent erosion of prices — at least temporarily, analysts say.

After three months of declines, hopes of a turnaround stirred by a report from Paris that officials of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were studying a plan to shave 5 per cent off the production of all 13 members except Iraq.

The report, by the New York Times, sent prices broadly higher on the New York Mercantile Exchange, even though it was later denied by Opec officials, said James Steel, an analyst at Refco Inc commodities brokerage firm.

Contracts for April delivery of West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude, moved 51 cents higher to close at \$16.00 per 42-gallon barrel.

Refined products also jumped sharply. Wholesale heating oil rose 0.90 cent to settle at 43.93 cents per gallon, while wholesale unleaded gasoline leaped 1.14 cents per gallon to close at 45.14 cents. One gallon equals 3.8 litres.

Steel said on Thursday that traders were unconcerned by Opec's denial of the report, taking it more as a sign that at least some action was being taken by the organisation to prevent the recent slide in prices from getting out of control.

Since January, prices in the Gulf have fallen to levels between \$13 and 14 per barrel — far below Opec's 19 dollar-per-barrel target — while West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude, dropped from nearly \$18 to the \$15-to-16 range.

Sluggish worldwide demand and swelling inventories, aggravated by an unusually warm winter in Europe, have been cited as two reasons for the market's slump.

Good

In addition, some Opec members, desperate to preserve their market shares, helped push prices lower by discounting to lure customers away from other Opec competitors and non-Opec countries, such as Mexico, Britain, Norway and a host of other smaller nations.

"If everyone goes on producing like last month, you're looking at another dollar's decline in crude prices in a couple of

weeks," said Dillard Spriggs, president of the Petroleum Analysis Ltd consulting firm.

"But chances are probably pretty good they'll rein it in," he said, citing prospects for increased summer demand. "I think we're in this cycle of up-and-down that will go on until about 1990."

Since December Opec's official aggregate quota has stood at 17.5 million barrels a day, but Spriggs said the organisation would have to cut that production to about 16.8 million barrels daily to meet demand and bring prices back to its \$18 per-barrel target.

Ironically, the organisation has been sucking pretty close to its quota — despite its past record for cheating.

The problem this time has been that the quotas set in December were just too high, said Ed Krapels of the Washington-based Energy Security Analysis Inc consulting firm.

While Opec has been producing about 17.5 million barrels a day, world demand has only called for something between 16 million and 17 million barrels daily, he said. "So to move extra barrels they had to discount barrels — and they did."

US to press Moscow for big grain purchases

WASHINGTON, March 11. (Reuters): Trade representative Clayton Yetter said the United States would press Moscow for large grain-purchase commitments when negotiations for a new grains pact begin in Washington on March 19.

Ambassador Yetter said in an interview with Reuters on Wednesday that the Reagan administration would seek the highest grain purchase commitment possible from the Soviet Union.

He would not comment when asked exactly how much grain the United States would ask Moscow to buy.

Yetter said he did not want to conduct market-sensitive negotiations publicly, but added that "clearly the principal concern we have would be in obtaining as large a commitment as we possibly can (from the Soviet Union)."

In 1983, when the long-term grain agreement with Moscow was renegotiated, Washington opened the talks by demanding a minimum annual purchase requirement of 16 million tonnes. Asked if the United States would seek such a large minimum again this year, Yetter would not comment.

He did say, however, that the question of the price at which Moscow must buy the grain was "not handled satisfactorily" in the 1983 negotiations and the two sides must reach an understanding on the question.

As interpreted by Moscow, the 1983 accord provides that the United States must supply grain at competitive world prices. Washington contends prevailing US prices are competitive.

Accord

The current accord, which expires on September 30, calls for the Soviet Union to purchase nine million tonnes of American grain and oilseeds annually.

Yetter noted he has not typically supported bilateral agreements such as the US long-term grain accord with Moscow, but added, "this is one agreement that I truly believe ought to be extended."

He said the accord was useful because of the sensitive nature of trade with the Soviet Union.

In an earlier interview with Reuters, Alexander Ivlev, Soviet representative in the United States for Exportkhleb, Moscow's grain-buying agency, said the Soviet delegation was likely to push for smaller grain-purchase guarantees.

Fortune magazine lists products that America makes best

NEW YORK, March 11. (Reuters): From hamburgers to fighter jets, the quality of US products is improving, Fortune magazine said in an article published yesterday.

Ranging alphabetically from aluminium foil to washing machines, the magazine published a list of American products whose quality it said was getting better.

The list included bamboo fly-fishing rods, McDonald's Hamburgers, paper towels, flutes, F-16 jet fighters, pianos, laser catheters and machines that mine coal.

"The quality of US goods — so often deplored as fit only for the throwaway society that produced them — is improving," said the article, entitled "What America makes best."

The list was compiled by consulting product quality experts in industry, academia and what the magazine called "knowledgeable observers of the global manufacturing scene."

World Business Summary

Texaco seeks secured revolving credit pact

WHITE PLAINS, New York, March 11. (AP): Texaco has asked a bankruptcy judge to authorise a secured revolving credit agreement allowing the company to borrow up to \$3 billion to finance the company's reorganisation plan. The \$3 billion was a vital part of the oil company's effort to emerge from chapter 11 bankruptcy, say Texaco's court papers. Texaco filed last year for protection from creditors under chapter 11, a federal measure covering voluntary bankruptcies, to avoid paying liens stemming from a \$10.3 billion award granted rival Pennzoil. The money awarded to Pennzoil came after a Texas jury found that Texaco had illegally interfered with Pennzoil's takeover of Getty Oil. After months of failed appeals and negotiations, a reorganisation plan was reached with Texaco paying Pennzoil a cash settlement of \$3 billion.

In a financial disclosure statement filed earlier this year, Texaco told US bankruptcy judge Howard Schwartzberg that it would need \$5.6 billion to fund the reorganisation plan, of which 2.4 billion would be cash on hand and 3.2 billion would be borrowed.

According to papers filed in bankruptcy court on Tuesday, some 20 to 30 banks were involved in the negotiations for the loans. The loans would be made to Texaco, Texaco Refining and Marketing Inc. and Texaco Overseas Holding Inc. and would be secured by the pledge of collateral agreed upon prior to the signing of the loan documents. The papers said the collateral could include the stock of Texas Caltex Petroleum, Texaco Canada, Deutsche Texaco AG, reserves of oil and gas or other assets.

Japan 'must solve its trade problems with America'

TOKYO, March 11. (Reuters): A US senator has warned that Japan must rapidly solve its trade problems with America if it wants to head off passage of protectionist legislation there. "The trade bill in Congress is now reaching a critical stage," Democratic Senator Max Baucus told Reuters in an interview today. "The provisions they adopt will be heavily influenced by the success or failure of ongoing trade talks with Japan." Baucus said Congress might include the so-called Gephardt amendment in the trade bill if Japan failed to act. That amendment calls for mandatory retaliation against America's major trading partners if they fail to meet specific targets for reducing their surpluses. "They (Congress) may decide we're not making progress with Japan so they may pass the Gephardt amendment," the Montana Senator said, adding that he personally opposed that clause. Japan is likely to announce on Thursday another dramatic straightening for its trade surplus for February, marking the 10th straight month its imbalance has shrunk. Economists forecast the merchandise trade surplus dropping to around \$5.7 billion in February from \$7.1 billion in the same month last year.

"This down-trend for the surplus should continue at least through April," said Kazutoshi Habanuma, economist for the Nikko Research Centre. Baucus ticked off a number of issues Japan should make progress on, including abolition for its restrictions on imports of oranges and beef and opening up its construction market further to foreign competition.

Nigeria, West Germany sign debt rescheduling agreement

LAGOS, March 11. (Opecna): Nigeria and West Germany yesterday signed a \$1.50 billion debt rescheduling agreement here to re-open credit lines between the two countries. West German President Dr Richard von Weizsacker, now visiting Nigeria, explained that the agreement, to roll over Nigeria's debt until 1997, would cover only official trade bills.

Talks on private debts would be held separately, he added. He said West Germany would assist Nigeria in diversifying its industrial production and attain self-sufficiency in agricultural production. Also at a ceremony here yesterday, the West German president pledged his country's support for Nigeria's structural adjustment programme which he described as an "impressive" approach towards economic recovery.

He told the Nigerian-German Business Council that his country could contribute its experience to the progress of the programme which required "a lot of sacrifice from Nigeria." He said his country had trust in "an economically healthy Nigeria," which needed high grade technology to harness its abundant resources, as well as a developed infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of goods and people. He urged the council to strengthen its role as the bedrock of business partnership between the two countries.

Philip Asiodu, president of the council, said the organisation needed support in its effort to persuade more German enterprises to come and invest in joint ventures in Nigeria, especially in the priority sectors. He stressed the need for project studies, training of professional and management personnel and provision of key foreign experts to accelerate technology transfer.

There are between 150 and 200 Nigerian-German joint ventures in Nigeria.

Economic crisis spurring South-South cooperation

JAKARTA, March 11. (Opecna): The current world economic crisis has reinforced the motivation of developing nations to step up their cooperation, according to a senior Indonesian diplomat. Moeslim Syaroni, director for economic relations among developing countries at the Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs, said Indonesia saw economic cooperation among developing countries as integral to its foreign policy. He noted that since 1980 Indonesia had organised 180 training programmes for developing countries, benefiting more than 1,800 persons from 53 nations. Of the countries whose nationals attended the training programmes, 23 were in Asia, 21 in Africa, seven in Latin America and one in Europe.

Indonesia, for its part, had also benefited from similar programmes organised by fellow developing countries. More than 370 Indonesians received training under these programmes which embraced mining, agriculture, health, education, finance, public works and industry, he added.

Statoil posts record loss

OSLO, March 11. (Reuters): Norway's state oil firm Statoil, hit by huge cost overruns at a refinery expansion project, said on Thursday it posted a record net loss in 1987, the first time it has been in the red since 1979. The 16-year-old company, the country's biggest and a cornerstone of its oil-based economy, reported a loss of 1.9 billion crowns (\$300 million) in 1987 after a net profit of 1.1 billion (\$180 million) the previous year. With oil prices denominated in weakened dollars around 16-month lows, Statoil said its prospects for 1988 were gloomy. "The board assumes that there may be a considerable reduction in 1988 profits before extraordinary items," it said in a statement. "The board sees considerable uncertainty linked to the price of oil and currency developments."

The main reason for the 1987 loss was a write down of three billion crowns (\$475 million) in cost overruns at its Mongstad refinery project on Norway's West Coast. "If you exclude Mongstad, the result is reasonably satisfactory," managing director Harald Norvik told a news conference. "But with Mongstad, it's very poor." Statoil said in a statement that writing down some of the costs at Mongstad, where cost overruns forced the board and managing director to resign last year, would reduce the burden on the balance sheet in the next few years. The company said turnover rose 23 per cent to a record level of 60.8 billion crowns (\$9.5 billion) in 1987.

Year	Percentage of Population Aged 65 and Over
1950	7.5
1955	8.5
1960	9.5
1965	10.5
1970	11.5
1975	12.0
1980	12.5

International Bond Highlights

London—Salomon Brothers International Ltd said it is issuing a 100 min stg floating rate note backed by UK home mortgages paying interest at 32-1/2 basis points over three-month London interbank offered rates. (RTX 1039)

Lugano, Switzerland—Italy's Enel Ente Nazionale Energia Elettrica is issuing 100 min Swiss francs in seven-year, 4-1/8 pct notes priced at 101 pct, lead manager Banca Della Svizzera Italiana said. (RTWV 0931)

London—The Bank of England said it is issuing 800 min stg of new 8-1/2 pct government bonds by tender, with dealing beginning on March 16. (RTX 1547)

Lugano—Enel Ente Nazionale Energia Elettrica is issuing 100 min Swiss francs in seven-year, 4-1/8 pct notes priced at 101 pct, lead manager Banca Della Svizzera Italiana said. (RTWV 0931)

Zurich—The Montreal urban community is launching 60 min Swiss francs of non-callable, 4-1/2 pct, 10-year notes priced at 100-3/8 pct, lead manager Banque Paribas (Suisse) SA said. (RTYU 1356)

London—Asik-Cper Finance NV is issuing a 50 min Australian dir Eurobond due May 10, 1991 paying 12-3/4 pct at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager Bankers Trust International said. (RTZR 1542)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-1/2 1/4	8-3/4 5/8	9 7-7/8
FFY 3.25/35	3.35/45	3.35/45
PAR 7-15/16 7/8	7-3/4 7/8	8-1/16 3/16
ZUR 1/8 3-3/8	1-1/2 1-3/4	1-3/4 2
BRX 4.80	6-1/8 1/4	6-1/8 1/4
ROM 10-1/4 10-3/4	11-1/8 11-5/8	11-1/8 11-5/8
AMS 3-7/8 4.0	3-7/8 4.0	3-15/16 4.0
TOK 3.5000 5625	3.9575 4.0000	3.8125 8750
ECU 6.00 6.25	6.18 6.31	6.31 6.43

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait on Thursday.

Period	Bid	Offer
1 month	3 1/4	3 5/8
3 months	4	4 3/8
6 months	4 3/8	4 3/4
1 year	4 11/16	5 1/8

BOMBAY

PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	64.50	64.50	67 NICO	502.50	513.50	527.50
ACC	142	144.50	149	GNFC	31	32	32	MUKAM	80
ASIA PAINT	150	155	152.50	GSFC	103	104	107	ORAY	20.50
BAJAJ AUTO	432.50	440	436.25	HIND LEVER	68	69.50	79	PEICO	27
BAR. RAYON	161.25	162.50	169	HINDALCO	123	125	127	PFIZER	71
BOM. DYING	135	138	137	HINDOCOA	83.75	85	84.75	PRE. AUTO	26
BR. BOND	79	80	82	HINDOMOT	17	18	18.75	RAYMOND	47
BSE INDEX	412.82	419.98	420	IND ORG	17	15.50	16.50	RELANCE	90
CENTURYSPG	820	820	820	INDORAYON	51	52	54	STEWENS	67
COLGATE	193	197.50	193.75	INDROL	175	173.75	172.50	SPIC	28
DEEPAKERT	26.50	27	26.50	ITC	32.50	32.50	34.50	STDHILLS	235
EL. HOTEL	43	43	42	JSCYTH	62	64	63	TATA PWR	190
ESKAYEF	181.25	183.75	173.75	L. AND T	85	85	87	TATACHEN	62.50
ESSAR	17	17	17.75	MAHINDRA	56	56	56	TELCO	357.50
GAR. POLY	79	79	76.50	MASTERSHR	9.12	9	9.12	TISCO	630
GE. SHIP	23	24	24.50	MATHER PL	100	99	101	VOLTA	250

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AGE	237.0
ALLIANZ VR	1371.0
BADEMERK	177.5
BAF	261.5
BAYER	262.2
BAYER NYF	355.0
BAYER VER	348.5
BBC	307.0
BRF	335.0
BVM	518.0
CHENIE-VER	0
COMMERZB	231.0
CONTI GUM	232.8
DATMER BEN	688.5
DEUTSCH BHK	420.4
DLV	330.0
DRESDNER B	247.0
DT BARCOCK	155.2
FAZ-INDEX	454.59
GOLDSCHEID	260.0
GUTHOFF	0
HARPERNER	399.0
HOCHEST AG	257.2
HOFER	110.5
HORTEN	188.0
HUSSEL MLD	431.0
KALI SALZ	422.0
KARSTADT	416.5
KAUFHOFF	371.0
KLOECK H	96.5
KLOECK U	0
LINDE	575.0
LUFTHANSA	145.0
MANN	153.5
MANNESMAN	120.0
MERCEDES	568.0
METALLGES	231.0
NITROKOR PF	564.8
NORDBY HYD	48.00
PHILIP KON	634.0
PORSCHE	477.5
REUSSAG	128.5
PSA	198.0
RHEIN P	204.1
RHEIN P	197.0
REINWETAL	269.0
SCHERING	456.0
SEL	310.2
SIEMENS	378.3
THYSEN	127.0
VARTA	262.0
VEBA	257.0
VEW	163.4
VOLKSWAGEN	233.5

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
C H TUNNEL	14.30
CHUNG K	7.65
CHINA GAS	16.20
CHINA L-P	18.90
CHINA MOTOR	19.10
COSMO PROP	4.30
EVERGOLD IND	.31
FAR EAST C	.72
GEN ORIENT	0
H C DEVELOP	8.70
H S INDEX	551.76
HANG LUNG	4.90
HANG SENG	31.25
HAM PAR BR	0
HK ELEC CO	8.05
HK KODALCO	7.10
HK LAND CO	7.80
HK SHAN BK	7.35
HK SHAN HT	4.30
HK TELE CO	7.35
HUTCH WHAM	8.50
IND EQ PAC	8.35
JARDINE H	12.10
KODALCO N	11.40
NEW WORLD	9.20
PAUL Y CON	1.72
REALTY DEV	5.45
S H K CO	1.83
S H K PROP	9.95
SINE DARY	1.49
STELUX PFC	5.45
SHIRE PAC	17.50
T V B CO	13.70
TAT CHEUNG	3.42
UNION BANK	1.59
WOCK HAD	0
WOCK HAT	0
WORLD INTL	3.05

AMMAN

As of 9.3.88	OPNG	CLSG
AL-NISER EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.41	1.40
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.90	1.89
ARAB BANK	113.5	114.2
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.60	4.37
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	0.92
ARAB INT. INV. TRAD.	0.95	0.96
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.53	0.58
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	2.12	2.12
ARAB JOR. INVST/BK	0.39	0.38
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	2.10	2.10
ARAB PHARM. MANF.	0.76	0.75
ARAB PHARM/CHEM	1.65	1.65
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.63	1.62
BANK OF JORDAN	30.00	30.00
BEILUNG INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	0.42	0.41
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	1.54	1.53
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	0.46	0.46
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.63	0.61
DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS.	0.60	0.59
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INSURANCE	1.33	1.34
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.50	1.50
GENERAL TRADING	0.79	0.79
HIMMER MINERALS	1.15	1.20
HOLY LAND INS.	0.73	0.75
IND. MATCH JEMCO	1.31	1.34
INDUSTRIAL DEVLPT BKK	1.48	1.46
INDUSTRIAL COMPA/AGR.	1.57	1.54
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	0.64	0.64
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	0.96	0.96
INTERN. COM/INV	0.64	0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.64	0.64
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	3.50	3.20
J.PRESS FOUNDATION	1.30	1.31
JERUSALEM INS.	13.50	13.55
JOR TOBACCO/CIGARET	1.07	1.07
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.06	1.06
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	25.01	25.05
JOR EAGLE INS.	1.47	1.47
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.20	1.18
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.04	1.03
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	2.50	2.50
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	1.78	1.78
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.20	1.20
JOR INS AND FIN.	0.27	0.25
JOR LINE AND BRICK	2.43	2.45
JOR MAHAG/CONSULT	3.06	3.08
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.40	2.35
JOR PAPER CARDBOG	1.19	1.19
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.05	2.00
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	3.00	3.65
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	0.67	0.67
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	0.91	0.91
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	1.36	1.34
JOR SECURIT. CORP	4.50	4.35
JOR TIMBER PROCES.	1.00	1.00
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	7.10	7.08
JOR. KUWAIT AGR.	5.90	5.60
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	1.85	1.85
JOR. FRENCH INS.	3.65	3.65
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP.	1.03	1.03
JORDAN DAIRY	1.20	1.20
JORDAN GULF BANK	0.94	0.95
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.34	0.34
JORDAN GULF REAL	13.85	13.90
JORDAN INSURANCE	1.76	1.76
JORDAN ISLAMIC BKK	1.60	1.59
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.92	1.90
JORDAN TANNING	0.74	0.74
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.69	0.73
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.60	0.60
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.60	0.60
MIDDLE EAST INS.	0.60	0.60
MINERALS RESEARCH	1.76	1.85
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.01	1.01
NAT. MATCH JEMCO	1.28	1.26
NATIONAL AHILA INS	0.50	0.50
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.85	0.85
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.25	0.28
NATIONAL STEEL	2.02	2.00
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.70	0.69
PETRA BANK	0.50	0.50
PETRA ENTERPRISES	0.69	0.68
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.80	0.80
RAPIA INDUSTRIAL	0.43	0.43
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.87	0.87
SHIPPING LINES	0.96	0.95
SPINNING WEAVING	1.60	1.60
UNITED INSURANCE	2.50	2.50
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	0.74	0.73
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.85	0.85
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.10	1.10

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BUY	SELL	BC-A	65.00	75.00
STOCK LT	9.30	9.30	9.40	.45	.46
AC-A	4.80	4.80	4.85	.47	.48
ANSCOR	2.30	2.30	2.35	.37	.37
FER	31.00	31.00	31.50	.39	.39
GLO	137.00	136.00	137.00	.015	.016
PLDT	125.00	124.00	125.00	.015	.017
KPSI-A	125.00	124.00	125.00	.0028	.003
SMC-B	140.00	140.00	141.00	.0028	.003
MINING SECTOR	0.029	0.029	0.03	.038	.038
APX-A	0.029	0.029	0.03	.038	.039
APX-B	0.029	0.029	0.03	.038	.036
AT-A	21.00	21.00	21.25	.036	.037

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
SECTOR	1,078,190	7,430,080	7.44	6.02 UP
COMP. IND.	113,267,600	6,507,775	54.46	20.78 UP
MINING	212,000,000	4,708,950	5.735	0.170 DN
OIL	326,345,790	18,646,805	763.07	4.11 DN

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BUY	SELL	BC-A	68.00	70.00
STOCK LT	124.00	124.00	125.00	.45	.46
AC-A	4.80	4.80	4.85	.47	.48
ANSCOR	2.30	2.30	2.35	.37	.37
FER	31.00	31.00	31.50	.39	.39
GLO	137.00	136.00	137.00	.015	.016
PLDT	125.00	124.00	125.00	.015	.017
KPSI-A	125.00	124.00	125.00	.0028	.003
SMC-B	140.00	140.00	141.00	.0028	.003
MINING SECTOR	0.029	0.029	0.03	.038	.038
APX-A	0.029	0.029	0.03	.038	.039
APX-B	0.029	0.029	0.03	.038	.036
AT-A	21.00	21.00	21.25	.036	.037

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUES	AVERAGES	CHANGES
SECTOR	342,350	11,823,185	731.69	UP 3.88
C/I	333,987,700	14,042,650	4,489.55	UP 35.58
MINING	267,650,000	5,124,350	6.026	DN .090
OILS	601,980,050	30,990,185	744.83	DN 0.76

SINGAPORE

NAME	LAST PR	CL	GS	111	108	LEONHUA	149	148
AJUNIMOTO	285	285	GUINNESS	253	252	H UTD IND	68	68
ALEXANDRA	170	170	GULA			M UTD MFG	60	60
ANAL IND	112	112	H TAI PND.	115	113	M'SHITA	510	510
ANB HDGS	185	185	H L IND.	50	50	M'UATA	60	60
ARCOL	135	125	HAKUNA	93	90	MAGNUM	197	193
BA TOB	210	205	HAM PAR	300	294	MALEX IND	380	380
CARLSBERG	565	560	HEKZA	105	103	MARCOPOLO	83.5	83
COLD STOR	394	386	HIM H'SIA	560	560	NEHNG	76.5	76.5
DAYAPI	87	87	HTL NEGAR	350	350	NEHANG	46.5	46.5
DKN	490	470	HTL PROPS	84	84	NITC BND	350	352
DUNLOP IND	81.5	82	HTL ROYAL	105	105	MULPHATIND	21.5	21.5
DUTCHBABY	450	450	HUME IND	164	160	MURATA	60	60
ESSO ORD	360	354	HWA HONG	87	85.5	MYCON BND	160	160
EU YAN S	195	195	INT WOOD			N ST TIME	294	290
EVERPEACE			INTRACOR	223	220	NB TIMBER	80	78
F A C B	60	60	ISETAN	486	484	QUE	364	360
F E ASSET	47	47	J CEMENT	65	65	P MALAYAN	380	380
F E SHIP	210	204	JACKS LTD	106	106	RENONG	31	31
FEB CABLE	830	815	JOHAN HDG	39		S PACIFIC	264	264
F I HDGS			K G HDGS	115		S PRESS	795	780
G LUMBER	560	560	K KELLAS	283		SANYO	88	88
GANDA HDG			K L IND	30.5		SATERAS	43	43
GEN CORP			KAPUNITING	464		SEAL INC	85	85
GENYING	396	386	KECK SENG	156	158	SEAVIEW	172	168
GLD COIN	190	185	KENTUCKY	213	207	SHELL ORD	432	432
GOODWOOD	1050	1050	KEPPEL	219	208	SIN LIM	60	60
			KG FLOOR	225	225	STIMARTINE	123	120
			KIAN JOO	238	238	SPR LTD		
			KINGS HTL	134	133	TPC LTD		
			KING FINE	84	83			

'KIO would not seek a seat on company's board'

Kuwait sets 22.5pc limit on BP stake

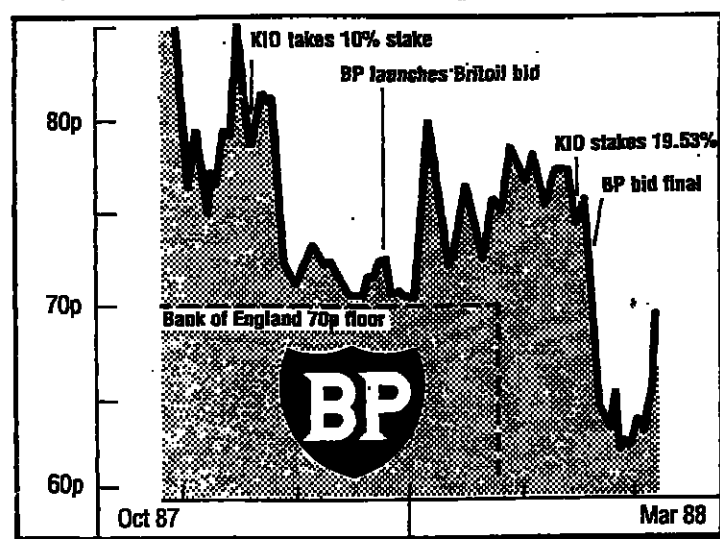
LONDON, March 11, (Reuters): Kuwait said today it had lifted its stake in British Petroleum Co Plc (BP) above 20 per cent, but it pledged to stop buying the oil multinational's stock when it reaches a holding of 22.5 per cent.

The pledge was made by Trevor Ball, chief investment manager at the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO).

The KIO places the country's petrodollar investments worldwide and has gradually been buying into BP, Britain's biggest company and the world number three oil major after Exxon Corp of the United States and the Anglo-Dutch Shell Group.

The build-up of a big stake in BP by the Kuwaitis had worried British politicians and aroused some concern in BP, lest the Kuwaitis contemplated a bid to control the company or influence its management.

But Ball said the KIO would not seek a seat on the BP board, did not see its investments as a means of influencing corporate



decisions and looked on its BP stake as a long-term holding in a company for whose management and policy it had high regard.

"I think the game is over," said Michael Unsworth, chief oil analyst with London brokerage Smith New Court. "I think it is

going to settle down into a good shareholder/management relationship. In the long term, nothing is certain. But I do not believe the Kuwaitis will be bad shareholders."

BP confirmed that the KIO now holds 1.27 billion BP shares, representing 21.28 per cent of the

company.

The KIO began snapping up BP stock on the London market last autumn.

That was when the British government sold a residual state holding in BP, and the company itself issued new stock, together worth £7.2 billion (\$13 billion).

The huge issue coincided with the crash on world stock markets, leaving many BP stock on underwriters' hands and available at bargain basement prices.

The Kuwaitis thought they looked a good deal.

BP chairman Sir Peter Walters said on February 18 he did not expect the Kuwaitis to interfere with the way he runs BP.

The oil company would have to show, he said, that it "is still as independent as it ever was." The British government had a tone time held at 51-per cent stake and did not interfere, and "we regard the KIO in a similar light."

But he also said that any Kuwait stake above 20 per cent would raise what he called the level of discomfort.

"At 20 per cent we are not uncomfortable in terms of practice ... but there are tactical reservations about the holding. We and they may collide in the market ... we might be making an acquisition for paper at the same time as they decide to sell off part of their holding."

Deal

Oil industry analysts point out, however, that there might be times when the Kuwaitis, major oil producers, could swing a good deal in BP's favour because of their holding in the firm.

BP shares dropped after the KIO announcement but analysts said this was simply a knee-jerk reaction and the price would probably drift around the current levels in the near term.

"Now that the uncertainty is out of the way, a bit of profit-taking is not surprising after the run the shares have had. With the market moving an awful lot lower," one trader said.

Newly-paid BP shares eased to stand two pence (3.5 cents) down at 81 pence (\$1.5).

EEC pledges more aid to Ethiopia

BRUSSELS, March 11, (Reuters): The European Economic Community today announced a further \$50 million in famine aid for Ethiopia and said millions of lives would be threatened if civil war prevented food being distributed by road.

"Commitments entered into by all parties to allow road transport have not been respected. If we do nothing, then we are going to condemn millions to death," EEC development commissioner Lorenzo Natali told a news conference.

"Since November, about 94 lorries have been destroyed by guerrillas. All too often, our transport is either completely blocked or delayed by roadblocks by the Ethiopian Army," he added.

Part of the new money pledged by the EEC's executive commission will finance an airlift of food to the drought-hit regions of Ethiopia for four more months.

But Natali said planes could move only a limited amount of food and could not take it to the more remote villages. Relief organisations want to prevent people abandoning their homes and moving to camps, as they did during the devastating famine in Ethiopia three years ago.

"The airlift has become the backbone of relief but it alone cannot meet the needs which we face," he said.

"Until now, we have been able to keep the situation under control but it remains precarious and could well turn into a disaster if new measures are not adopted immediately," he added.

Natali said the number of people dependent on relief aid in the northern province of Tigre and Eritrea, where guerrillas are fighting for independence, could reach 3.5 million before the next harvest. A similar number could be affected by famine elsewhere in the country.

The new aid from the commission will include 54,000 tonnes of cereals, taking the total donated by the Community and its 12 member states to about 546,000 tonnes.

Nickel price at all-time high

LONDON, March 11, (Reuters): Nickel, hit by persistent shortages and steady demand from stainless steel makers, touched record prices in London today with metal for delivery in three months' time trading at up to \$5.20 a pound, traders said.

This was the equivalent of \$11,464 a tonne and compared with the previous record of \$5.10 a pound (\$11,244 a tonne) and yesterday's close of \$4.95 (\$10,900).

Nickel has risen by more than 40 per cent in value since the beginning of February.

Traders said the trend continued to be fuelled by shipment delays from Canada's Falconbridge Dominicana Republic Ferronickel plant due to a dispute which began in December over the amount of export duty and ecological disbursements it should pay.

End-users such as stainless steel plants and merchants had been expecting shipments from the Dominican Republic to resume and were being forced to try to cover their needs on the LME where sellers were holding back because of the shortage of nickel for immediate delivery.

Traders said that as a result they expected London Metal Exchange stocks to fall further this week from last week's already low 2,778 tonnes.

Iraq to host fourth Arab energy conference

BAGHDAD, March 11, (Opecna): More than 50 participants from Arab and non-Arab countries and international companies will take part in the fourth Arab energy conference opening here on Monday.

The theme of the conference which is to last from March 14 to 17 is "energy and Arab cooperation."

In a telephone interview, Dr Jassim Al-Gumari, head of the economics department of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), told Opecna that apart from energy-related issues, the conference would discuss closer Arab energy cooperation.

The four-day meeting will examine energy balances in Arab countries, their present energy resources and the possibility of developing and conserving them. Particular attention will be paid to energy industries, particularly those relating to oil and gas.

The international event, which is to be supervised by a committee comprising representatives of five sponsoring institutions, will discuss 30 papers involving three different subjects — energy sources, energy demand and the oil

industry.

The Opec official noted that during the conference a roundtable session to be chaired by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa will discuss world energy demand and pricing policies and their impact on Arab countries.

Role

Early this month, Opec acting secretary-general Dr Abdul Aziz Al Wattari called the conference a "demonstration" of Iraq's leading role in boosting inter-Arab energy cooperation and achieving economic integration.

Al Wattari added that the meeting would discuss ways of evolving a common Arab energy policy and achieving coordination between energy supplies and national development programmes.

The first section of the conference will deal with energy issues, including energy resources in the Arab world, natural gas and Arab integration and new and renewable sources of energy — solar, wind, biomass and geothermal — in the Arab region.

The second section will discuss

papers on energy demand, energy balances, energy consumption and economic development, and oil pricing and production policies in Arab countries.

Opportunities for cooperation, coordination, and integration in the Arab refining industry, future international technological options in this sector and petrochemicals will be among the issues to be dealt with in the third section.

On the first day, the morning session will feature statements by the host country and sponsoring institutions, as well as Arab delegation heads. Technical papers will be presented in the afternoon session and on the second and third days.

Policies

On the last day of the conference, the final communiqué will be issued.

According to the organisers, the main idea behind the holding of such conferences was to establish an Arab institutional framework for energy issues in order to develop a pan-Arab energy perspective and to coordinate and strengthen relations

between Arab institutions involved in energy issues.

They say such gatherings will also help to harmonise energy policies with development planning and determine present and future Arab energy requirements and the means of satisfying them in addition, they enable planners to evaluate existing energy resources in the Arab region and coordinate promote efforts to develop them.

The decision to hold an Arab energy conference was taken by the Opec ministerial council in May 1977. The first conference took place in the UAE in March 1979, the second in Doha in 1982 and the third in Algeria in 1985.

The Arab League, which has been sponsoring the Arab petroleum congress since 1959, decided to incorporate the congress into the Arab energy conference.

The present conference is being sponsored by Opec, the Arab League, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources and the host country, Iraq.

Plan to set up fund to aid developing countries

Taiwan eases rules on imports from China

TAIPEI, March 11, (Reuters): Taiwan, in a major policy reversal, announced today it would open its markets to a wide range of goods and raw materials from China.

Premier Yu Kuo-Hua told parliament the government would continue to restrict agricultural and light industrial imports from China, but all other goods would be allowed in through third countries.

Taiwan has banned direct trade with China since 1949 when the Nationalist government fled to the island from the mainland after the communists took power.

Taiwan already exports indirectly to China, mainly through Hong Kong, and Yu said the government would not interfere with this. He firmly ruled out direct trade with Beijing.

Yu said Taiwan would allow imports of industrial goods and raw materials not produced on Taiwan. But to protect local manufacturers, restrictions would continue on imports of light industrial goods and farm products.

"If they use their cheap wages

to dump their products in our market then all our farmers and small industry will be badly hurt. It will also create unemployment," Yu said.

Businessmen in Taiwan, hard-hit by the rising value of the local dollar, have been clamouring for direct trade and investment in China.

Taiwan has virtually no raw materials but is a manufacturing giant and has become Washington's fourth largest trading partner.

Businessmen, who are already defying a ban on direct investment on the mainland in search of cheap labour and manufacturing centres, argue that the economies of Taipei and Beijing could complement each other perfectly.

Dangers

They are alarmed by South Korean efforts to boost trade with Beijing, saying Taiwan's major business competitor in Asia would have a huge advantage if it gained access to China's abundant and cheap raw materials.

The Nationalist government has repeatedly warned of the dangers of over-reliance on the Chinese market, saying Beijing

could sue the threat of halting trade to writing political concessions out of Taipei.

Beijing openly admits that trade with Taiwan is a political tool it is using to try and achieve its cherished goal of reunifying China.

Growth

Today's announcement marks a further thaw in relations between Taipei and Beijing that began when the Nationalist government eased a 38-year ban on travel to the mainland last November to allow visits for family reunions.

But Taipei is adamant that it will never open official dialogue with Beijing's communist leaders.

Meanwhile, the Taiwan government plans to set up a \$1 billion fund to aid developing countries and promote trade and economic cooperation, an official said yesterday.

Wang Chao-Ming, deputy chairman of the government's Council for Economic Planning and Cooperation, told reporters the council approved on Wednesday a plan to set up the development fund to offer long-term low-interest loans.

"We are on the way to becoming

a developed country and we have the responsibility to help less-developed countries to develop their economies," Wang said.

Taiwan, with an average annual economic growth rate of 8.5 per cent over the past decade, is one of Asia's four prospering newly industrialised countries, along with Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea.

The fund will be used to finance education, manpower training, construction and other projects in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, Wang said.

He said the fund also will provide financial support to local companies which plan to invest in those regions.

Wang said Taiwan's main benefit from the programme will be economic, as development projects may require Taiwan-made equipment.

Under the plan, which will be subject to approval by the legislative Yuan, the fund will be given a budget of \$100 million in its first year of operation, Wang said. Additional funding in subsequent years is expected to bring the fund's total to \$1 billion, he said.

Oil prices firm

Dollar and gold ease

LONDON, March 11, (Reuters): Firmer oil prices suggested a slide in the market during recent weeks might be bottoming out, traders said today.

Crude from the North Sea Brent field, a barometer of world prices, was being quoted around \$14.85 a barrel for April loading, about a dollar above recent lows touched nine days ago.

Gold, meanwhile, was fixed in London today at \$440.50 an ounce, down from yesterday's \$444.10.

Dealers said the firmer oil prices triggered a flurry of buying in gold futures in the United States yesterday — the markets' knee-jerk reaction always is that costlier oil equals inflation, against which gold is a favourite hedge.

But oil's rebound may falter, market analysts said.

A rally in oil in New York yesterday followed reports that the Opec organisation was considering output cuts to mop up the glut which is weighing on prices.

Interest

"There was a lot of buying interest off a report that Opec is planning production cuts," said Stephen Platt, oil futures analyst with Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., New York.

But an Opec spokesman said the report was "unfounded."

"The market is nervous," Platt said. "Players are expecting Opec to take more decisive action to halt the oil price slide."

Currency markets were dominated by a surge in the value of the West German mark against several other European currencies. The mark opened in Paris at 341.09/50 per 100 French francs, a record high against the franc.

The dollar was easier, fetching just below 1.66 marks and around 127.25 yen at mid-morning in London after beginning the week at 1.6750 and 128.

The pound sterling, which has attracted investors because of

relatively high British interest rates, rebounded from a slight dip to around 3.0740 marks and \$1.8525 after new buying orders during the morning.

Stock markets in Asia and Europe were depressed by news of sharp fall on Wall Street yesterday which took the Dow Jones industrial average down 48 points.

Tokyo share prices fell today following Wall Street's 48-point plunge but brokers said the market remained far more stable than New York's.

The key Tokyo share index fell 74.09 points, or 0.29 per cent, to 25,543.73 after New York's plunge on rumours of new insider trading indictments on Wall Street.

Strategist Craig Chudler of Smith New Court Far East said: "Tokyo doesn't want to be nervous, and it'll take more than Wall Street to unnerve it."

Decline

Fundamentals were not behind Wall Street's decline and "there is nothing technically wrong with the market," a broker from Jardine Fleming said.

A broker from one of the big four Japanese securities houses said that there was also a feeling that Wall Street had hit a ceiling anyway, so some weakness was to be expected.

"The market is now keenly awaiting the release next Thursday of US January trade data," said one dealer at a Japanese bank.

Gold, meanwhile, ended the day in Tokyo at around \$443.25 an ounce compared to New York's yesterday's close of \$443.55.

Recent strong rallies on Hong Kong's Stock Exchange are no guarantee of a return to the heady days of soaring profits which prevailed before the world stock crash in October, analysts told Reuters today.

Most analysts expect the Hang Seng index, a widely used

barometer for the local stock market, to peak between 2,650 and 2,700. It shed a record 1,100 points in a single day when it reopened four days after the October 19 crash.

The index has gained some 250 points since the lunar new year break in February and touched a post crash high of 2,600 yesterday. But it lost more than 20 points this morning following a sell-off on Wall Street.

Vulnerable

Analysts said local stocks are still vulnerable to overseas share price movements as well as continued fears of a world economic recession in the wake of the crash.

They noted that behind the rallies lay expectations of strong corporate earnings due in next few weeks. But they said the bullish effect will evaporate with the completion of the reporting period in early April.

Overseas fund managers are also concerned about the integrity of the local stock exchange following a prosecution against its former chairman Ronald Li in January.

Li, who ordered a controversial four-day closure of the bourse during the October crash, has been charged with allegedly taking a bribe of 1.1 million newly listed shares of Kumagai Gumi (Hong Kong) when it went public last May.

"The Li issue definitely cast a shadow over the (Hong Kong stock) market," said a US brokerage firm analyst.

However, some analysts are optimistic over the long term outlook of the bourse. "We expect it to go through the 3,000 level by mid-1988," said Barry Yates of broker Hoare Govett.

"I think the market is underpinned by a high level of liquidity and the very relaxed credit conditions. These factors are also the reasons why local property values (a key factor for Hong Kong stocks) did not suffer after the crash," he said.

US wholesale prices drop

WASHINGTON, March 11, (Reuters): US prices at the wholesale level fell a surprising 0.2 per cent in February after rising 0.4 per cent in January, the Labour Department said today.

The decline, which reflected lower costs for food and energy last month, confounded expectations of a 0.3 per cent increase and provided fresh assurance that inflation remained under control, economists said.

In a separate report, the Commerce Department said retail sales rose 0.6 per cent in January, in line with expectations.

Car sales were particularly strong once again, rising 1.6 per cent after climbing 2.0 per cent in January.

Sales

The two reports portrayed an economy that has shrugged off the shock of October's stock market crash and is still expanding moderately without generating inflationary pressures, economists said.

Retail sales have risen in three of the four months since the stock market collapse.

Prices at the wholesale, or producer level, had fallen 0.4 per cent in December, were unchanged in November and declined 0.3 per cent in October.

Food prices fell 1.1 per cent in February, erasing most of January's 1.7 per cent rise. The Labour Department's index for

fresh and dried vegetables dropped 26.3 per cent because of a 70 per cent slump in lettuce prices, which had soared in January and December due to a crop disease in California.

Prices for chicken, pasta, eggs and cooking oils also fell last month after rising substantially in January.

Prices

Energy prices fell 0.8 per cent after slumping 4.5 per cent in January. It was the sixth consecutive monthly drop, with both gasoline and heating oil prices continuing to fall.

Oil prices have weakened further amid evidence of overproduction by the Opec oil-producing countries, raising hopes of another favourable inflation figure for March.

Stripping out volatile food and energy costs, the government said the index for consumer goods was up 0.3 per cent in February after rising 0.6 per cent in January.

Costly

As such, economists said the underlying annual inflation rate was still in the area of 3.5 to 4.0 per cent.

An economy that continued on the path of moderate, low-inflationary growth predicted by both the administration and the Federal Reserve would boost the chances of the Republican contender in November's presiden-

tial election, political analysts say.

Among more costly items last month were cosmetics, household appliances, home electronic equipment and alcoholic drinks. Prices continued to rise for women's apparel, footwear and textile household goods.

Retail sales rose \$714 million last month to 127.99 billion. Like the producer price statistics, the sales figures are adjusted to eliminate seasonal variations.

Excluding cars, sales were up 0.3 per cent, recouping part of a 0.8 per cent drop in January.

Overall retail sales in January were revised to show a 0.2 per cent decline instead of the previously reported rise of 0.5 per cent. Sales rose 1.2 per cent in December and 0.3 per cent in November.

The increase in February reflected an \$815-million rise in durable goods sales to \$51.06 billion, which offset a dip in sales of non-durable items.

Sales of building materials rose a strong 2.3 per cent, wiping out a 2.3 per cent drop in January, while sales at department stores declined 1.2 per cent after rising 0.4 per cent in January.

Food store sales rebounded 0.7 per cent after falling 0.6 per cent in January.

Petrol filling station sales fell 1.6 per cent last month, while sales of clothing rose 0.6 per cent.

Sony unveils pocket-sized compact disc player

TOKYO, March 11, (Reuters): The Sony Corporation, whose Walkman pioneered portable cassette players, today unveiled the first portable player designed for eight cm (three inch) compact-disc singles.

The D-88 player is likely to spur sales of CD singles, said Kozo Ohsone, senior general manager of Sony's audio division.

He said there were only 170 CD singles titles available in Japan in February, but the number could reach 1,000 by the end of the year.

Introduced

The CD single, which holds 20 minutes of music, was introduced in Japan last month and will hit Western markets in April. Conventional CDs are 12 cms (five inches) in diameter and can store up to 74 minutes of music.

The D-88 will retail in Japan from April 21 for 49,800 yen (\$390). Overseas sales will begin soon after.

The 400 grammes (14 ounce) player measures 94.5 mm (3.7 inches) by 32.9 mm (1.3 inches) by 99 mm (3.9 inches).

The singles format was developed jointly by Sony and Philips of the Netherlands.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 11, (Reuters): Shares closed easier although industrial regained some strength after earlier lows. The All Ordinaries index closed 4.6 points down at 1,354.6.

TOKYO: Shares closed down in hefty trade after Wall Street's overnight plunge but brokers said Tokyo's response to rumours was admirably restrained. The Nikkei index fell 74.09 points to 25,543.73.

HONG KONG: Late buying led by American brokerage firms helped stocks recover all early losses provoked by Wall Street's drop. The Hang Seng index ended up 4.11 at 2,595.45 after losing more than 30 points at one stage in the morning.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed marginally lower over a broad front but above the day's lows, helped by late bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.10 to 940.56.

BOMBAY: Prices rose sharply over a broad front in brisk trading for the new account after a ban on forward trading was relaxed. Tata Steel was up 23.75 to 653.75.

FRANKFURT: Share prices closed easier, pushed down by the mark's rise against the dollar and yesterday's share fall on Wall Street. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, fell 10.3 to 1,392.1.

ZURICH: Prices closed lower across the board on moderate

turnover as profit-taking set in after Wall Street's overnight decline.

PARIS: Prices opened the main floor session low in quiet but nervous trading.

LONDON: Shares edged above the lows in mid-session trading after a modest early mark-down following yesterday's Wall Street losses. At 1228 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 8.6 at 1,826.0.

India to export contraceptives to US

NEW DELHI, March 11, (Reuters): A state-run Indian rubber company has won an order to export 75 million condoms to the United States and Canada, a health ministry official told parliament yesterday.

Minister of State Kumari Saroj Khaparde said in a written reply the value of the contract won by Hindustan Latex Limited was not yet known.

India, which has around 800 million people, is expected to have one billion by the end of the century and may soon afterwards overtake China as the world's most populous country.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 10.3.88			
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Biography on Jacqueline Susann, author of steamy sixties best sellers

Inside the valley of eye-shadows

By F. McHugh

FIFTEEN years ago, Barbara Seaman, an activist in the women's movement in America and author of several serious books on health, met Jacqueline Susann in a doctor's surgery. After Valley of the Dolls in 1966 and The Love Machine three years later, Susann had become the queen of the best seller lists.

"I suppose I had the same feeling about her that a lot of other writers had, a resentment and contempt," Seaman remembers. "But I was touched when I saw her that day. She was extremely ill, fragile and sensitive." The following morning Seaman was amazed to see Susann — complete with wig and false eyelashes — energetically peddling her latest offering, *Once Is Not Enough*, on breakfast television.

By September 1974, 18 months after that brief encounter, Susann was dead of the cancer which had begun to creep through her body 12 years earlier. When, in 1980, Seaman's publisher suggested that she write Susann's story, the idea was to concentrate on her medical history.

Seaman, who has been cited by the Library of Congress for her work on sexism in health care, approached Jackie's medical advisers but felt suf-



Susann (left) and her sympathetic biographer Barbara Seaman.

ficiently curious about her subject to travel to her home town, Philadelphia.

"Within hours I was given the names of three of Jackie's father's mistresses," she writes in the preface. "Jackie had hardly grown up in a conventional family." The book, which took six years to write, gives details of Susann's life which were to provide much of the (sometimes dubious) colour in her novels and fills out that two-dimensional character beloved of the media of the time.

Irving Mansfield, Susann's husband for 35 years, who instructed friends not to talk to Seaman, is reported to have said that if his wife were still alive she would take a knife and stab her biographer. Certainly,



every closet rattles with skeletons — but what Susann would have hated with a passion is the pathos which the book evokes. When her son Guy, born in 1946, was diagnosed as autistic, she told no one. Very few people, too, knew of her struggle with cancer.

"I don't want to be put in the position of defending Jackie's oeuvre," Seaman says now. "In America all the television hosts wanted me to do was argue her merits against those of Harold Robbins or Stephen King. The point is that she led a remarkable life." Seaman, gentle-faced, faintly academic in both speech and appearance, could hardly be a greater contrast to that abrasive Susann, of whom Truman Capote wickedly said: "She looks like a truck driver in

drag." Writing the book raised all sorts of ethical difficulties about the role of biography, but Seaman, while quoting Germaine Greer's criticism of biographers (Greer suggests that they should play a more "honourable trade") has no hesitation in defending her position.

"There are several types of biography, and those which start from scratch are almost always a contribution to social history — in this case, the discovery of the creation of the modern fiction bestseller."

Jacqueline Susann once said: "I think I'll be remembered as the voice of the Sixties... Andy Warhol, the Beatles and me." Seaman believes, however, that she would have been more at home in the Eighties. "That kind of egotism would have been more acceptable. I'm almost afraid to say this, but I think she paved the way for Margaret Thatcher. She was unashamed to be tough and to say what she thought. And Denis Thatcher reminds me of Irving, who also had a successful career and could say 'go for it' to his wife. Having a career was very important to Jackie's heroes, and that was a big departure in women's fiction."

Lovely Me: The Life of Jacqueline Susann is published by Sidgwick & Jackson. (£13.95).

Bert Brecht keeps fans happy, critics guessing

Controversial Marxist playwright, once confined only to intellectuals, now attracts a mass audience in both East and West Germany

By Meinolf Ellers

HAMBURG (AP) — The eccentric German playwright and controversial Marxist Bert Brecht, whose plays have been translated worldwide into almost every language, is still keeping the critics guessing — more than three decades after his death.

Brecht, who would have celebrated his 90th birthday on February 10, was many a time described by his critics as "old hat" believing that his socially critical plays no longer suited contemporary society in their content and form.

But his fans thought differently. Brecht, together with Shakespeare, is one of the most popular playwrights on both East German and West German stages. His *Three Penny Opera* still attracts more spectators than any other play, 60 years after it was first staged. The former poet for intellectuals today attracts a mass audience, according to many observers.

Brecht, who criticised social injustice in his work and in his political activism, came from a wealthy factory-owning Bavarian family. He first studied science and medicine in Munich. His first play, *Drums in the Night*, which was staged in 1922, portrays the restless situation in Germany by telling the story of a soldier returning home at the end of World War I (1914-1918).



Brecht: criticised social injustice

His *Three Penny Opera*, first performed in Berlin in 1929 together with music composed by Kurt Weill, was met with immediate success. When the Nazis began to persecute him, Brecht fled the country, first to Scandinavia, then to the Soviet Union and Persia, finally emigrating to the United States in 1933.

During his time of exile Brecht wrote some of his most famous drama: *Good Person of Szechwan*, *Mother Courage and her Children*, *Life of Galileo* and *Pamela and Matti*. Brecht returned to Germany in 1948, three years after the end of World War II, with his second wife, the actress Helene Weigel. He established his Berlin Ensemble theatre in the socialist zone. In 1951 he performed his last major work, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. On August 14, 1956 he died of a heart attack.

During the last years of his life Brecht was sharply criticised in the West because of his political views, although he on occasions condemned the communist regime of East Germany. He nevertheless sent East German leader Walter

Ulbricht a telegram of solidarity during the workers' revolt in East Berlin on June 17, 1953.

Many theatres in the West then banned him from their stages for years. During the years of the Cold War between East and West, a level-headed approach to the artist Brecht seemed impossible.

It was only in the mid-1970s that the debate on Brecht became more collected. He is today regarded by many as the most significant dramatist of the 20th century, his plays frequently focusing on characters, who actually want to be good, but fall time and again when faced with reality. His novels however have found few readers.

Hardworking Biographers portray Brecht as a hardworking writer, who was never discouraged by setbacks. He did not work in isolation, but researched the language of the simple man in pubs and public places. He read crime novels and sports magazines and frequented cinemas and cabaret shows.

He himself described "woman consumption" as one of his biggest weaknesses. His wives were forced to tolerate his affairs while he in turn demanded from them fidelity.

A young East German author, Sabine Kehr, recently wrote a book with the title *An Acceptable Man*, dealing with Brecht's love life. The East German regime today also sees its playwright under a different light.

However new impulses no longer come from the Berlin Ensemble, which Brecht established almost 40 years ago, but from young directors in the rural areas. Together with theatres in West Germany they keep up Brecht's reputation as a classical author. *dpa Features*.

Prisoners in their own homes

Khul Khaal by Nayra Atiya (Virago, £7.95)

IN Khul Khaal five Egyptian women from the lower economic bracket tell their life stories, revealing a world as alien to the computer chip age as could be imagined.

Child mortality is high, female circumcision (although illegal) is practised on every small girl, a woman has little say in the choice of her husband (who is often a close relation), and the public defilement of the bride and exhibition of her blood-spotted sheets is important to the family honour.

The women who tell their tales are different in character — one is submissive, another fights against her father's rule, but they share a belief in destiny and fate which ultimately controls their lives.

They work towards owning a radio or fridge, but their work should only be within the home.

"He kept me so well that I never even slipped out of the house to go on an errand. He really cared for me. That's the way he showed it," says Om Gad.

Suda, the housekeeper, does work, but she will stop when she is married.

Charity worker Alice began sewing at home for extra money, but now only helps poorer women by teaching them to sew and looking after their welfare.

They all know that the only way up is through education — but for them it is too late.

The stories seem barely edited, but these women's faith, simple acceptance of fate, folklore and, in some cases, black magic makes for fascinating reading. *Sophia Watson*

Lana Turner's daughter sets the record straight

Exorcising old ghosts

By Paul Ben-Itzak

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuter): For the daughters of Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, writing Hollywood memoirs was a chance for revenge by dragging skeletons from mothers' closets.

For Cheryl Crane, *Detour: A Hollywood Story*, pulled a corpse from the closet and the book was an exorcism — not of an evil mother, but of her own ghosts.

The star-crossed daughter of Lana Turner did not have to write a book to make a name for herself.

She did that 30 years ago at the age of 14, when on Good Friday 1958, she interrupted a quarrel between Turner and her lover Johnny Stompanato. To prevent Stompanato from attacking Turner, Crane stabbed him to death.

Although ruled justifiable homicide, the stabbing reverberated through the rest of Crane's teen-age years. She ran away from home, attempted suicide and spent time in a mental institution and two reformatories.

Crane said she initially wanted her book to dispel the myths surrounding the Good Friday slaying, which has been immortalised in a score of fictional and factual, theatrical, literary and film accounts, most recently Woody Allen's movie *September*.

"So many people had misconceptions," she said. "Either my mother did it and I took the



Cheryl Crane: stabbed her mother's boy-friend when she was 14 years old

blame, or I was having an affair with Stompanato and was in a jealous rage, or my mother was in a jealous rage, or this phantom third person did it."

Most infuriating, Crane said, was an account by B.D. Davis in her memoir about her mother, Bette Davis.

Elegant

"Right in the middle of the book, there I am," said Crane. "Here she was saying that I, unbeknownst to mother, was having an affair with this man. And I never even met her (Davis)."

Crane decided she was strong enough to re-live that troubled time by writing the true story.

In the Pacific Heights penthouse she shares with her lesbian lover, Crane talked about her book, which has already been sold to a film producer, her

past, and her mother, now in semi-retirement.

Crane, an elegant 44-year-old, was born to Turner and her second husband, restaurateur and man-about-town Stephen Crane. Even before the Stompanato killing, her relationships with the men in her mother's life were troubled.

Crane says that Turner's fourth husband, Lex Barker — the star of several Tarzan movies — began sexually molesting her when she was 10. She said she endured Barker's sexual attentions for nearly three years. Writing about those experiences was the most difficult part of her book.

"By a process I didn't understand," Crane wrote, "I had been drawn into a conspiracy of silence about doing something painful and wrong and with an adult I very much disliked... in our unholy alliance, he held the ultimate power by threatening to inflict what I feared most — banishment from my family."

As she researched child abuse, Crane said, it became sadly clear that her experience was more typical than unique.

"The importance of the book shifted from just me trying to correct rumours to something that was much bigger than me," Crane said.

When Crane finally told her mother about Barker's clandestine visits to her bedroom, Turner threw him out.

The incidents were never discussed, Crane received no therapy. It was, she said, her mother's wish that it all be forgotten.

Because of the psychological damage caused by Barker and her sheltered "star baby" life, Crane was mentally and emotionally defenceless when it came to deal with the repercussions of killing Stompanato.

"I did not feel that I was very likeable person or a good person," said Crane, who described her childhood as pampered, sheltered and naive. "Then I was suddenly thrust not only into the real world, but into its darker aspects."

"I had one foot in Beverly Hills and one in jail," Crane said. "Mother and daughter did not discuss the Stompanato slaying until Crane began writing the book. One holiday weekend in 1986, Crane read her mother the chapters about Good Friday."



Cheryl Crane, aged 14, with actor Cary Grant (centre) and her mother Lana Turner (right).

By Libby Purves

GHOSTS simply do not get equal opportunities. Male ghosts monopolise all the plum jobs: they rattle chains, carry their heads under their arms, gallop around on black chargers and frighten people to death.

Female ghosts, on the other hand, mainly tap, pathetically at windows and wear bloodless white. Occasionally, they get a chance to break some china, but rarely do they get credited with anything much stronger than a disembodied sob.

Given this imbalance in legend and story, it was only a matter of time before some red-blooded feminist publisher rose to the challenge. And sure enough *The Virago Book of Ghost Stories* written by women and largely about women, is a shivery treat.

Women from Lady Cynthia Asquith to Fay Weldon contributed tales of mossy graveyards, abandoned houses and white, pinched faces in the dusk.

Plaintive

But the plaintive note is still there: as Jennifer Uglow, who wrote an analytical preface, says drily: "What struck me about these women's ghost stories is how few have blood in them. Lots of hair, but no blood. Women seem to be concerned with clinging to bits of the past, not vengeance and drama and active spooking."

Stories range from the early 20th-century writers' rather mannish imitations of Conan Doyle and Henry James (all those men in clubs, yarning away about "unaccountable occurrences") to the magical, realistic fables of Angela Carter

The feminist spirit

Sexism has long been a skeleton in the closet of ghostly literature. But a new book of ghost stories helps redress the balance with hair-raising stories on female spooks.

and Sara Maitland, peopled with rapist unicorns and oppressed stepchildren. But gradually they do build up a picture of the woman's, as opposed to the man's, ghost story: there is a different set of emphases behind the stories, from any you would be likely to find in a collection of the great male writers such as Walpole, Poe or Stevenson.

"I would hate to give a glib generalisation," Uglow says. "But I think it has something to do with a very womanly fear — the nightmare of being shut out, cut off from contact. It's Cathy at Heathcliff's window, a desperate spirit pushed out on to the margin."

In a story by E.M. Delaford (of Provincial Lady fame), the ghost of a wronged and strangled girl comes back to a dinner-table where her murderous lover sits with friends. It is not, the narrator says, the apparition which frightened him so much as the fact that everyone in the room could see it except the murderer. "It was indeed that which frightened me — not the gentle, anguished spirit... the eyes that saw nothing, the ears that heard nothing, the loud confident voice that talked on — of success, and of money, and of life in Pittsburgh." This is the real nightmare: that even beyond the grave, the poor woman will go on being ignored and despised.

However, there are other options for the phantom female apart from gentle anguish. A splendidly malevolent haunted saucepan emits thin curls of evil blue smoke in the night-time, in a story by Margery Lawrence; Angela Carter provides a ghostly mother of a stepchild who schemes and manoeuvres to help her daughter seal her stepmother's new boyfriend.

Fay Weldon contributes what must have been a mischievous early sketch for *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*. It is about a vicar's wife who meekly dawns his socks with pure wool and puts up with being blamed for everything in their rotten marriage. While some forceful poltergeist torments the pair of them by wrenching garden gates off and breaking her husband's china collection, the wife mends the breakages and papers over the cracks; but of course the poltergeist turns out to be a psychic manifestation of her own anger.

"There are two kinds of ghost story," Uglow says. "The ones about what you fear, and the ones which are fantasies of getting your own back." These women have an able, indeed an uncanny, knack of expressing both. But they still don't get to carry their heads under their arms.

The Virago Book of Ghost Stories (Virago, £12.95)

4-volume digest of Arabic names

By Ken Haley

MUSCAT, (Reuter): What's in 140,000 names? The makings of a book that will have personal relevance for the world's 150 million Arabs.

A pet project of the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos Bin Said, the four-volume digest of every personal name in the Arabic language is not due for publication until 1990.

But already researchers logging each new entry in their computers have acquired knowledge. For instance, they have found that 95 per cent of Arabs bear the 15,000 most common names in Arabic, even though they comprise only 11 per cent of the total number.

Sultan Qaboos recently met the advisory committee he appointed under the chairmanship of his personal adviser on economic planning, Mohammed Al Zubair, to produce the reference work.

Zubair, in an interview explained how the project had been conceived.

"His majesty noticed that he could not find a particular book in the Arabic library that he wanted to read... he had looked for such a book two or three or four times, and then he thought: 'why not create one?'" So in 1985 he commissioned Zubair to list and analyse names in use from Oman in the east to Morocco in the west and gave Zubair's task force five years to complete the job.

Zubair explained how he and his colleagues went about it: "We made a sample of about two per cent of the population from 12 countries and this gave us in the region of 7.5 million names."

Garnered

As Arabs commonly have a first, middle and last name this profusion of names denoted 2.5 million people from the participating nations — Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, North Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia and Jordan.

Between them the 2.5 million people whose names were gathered from telephone directories, hospital records, school, court, police and army files were found to share 140,000 different names.

But that is where the investigation really begins because, as an academic work, the 'Sultan Qaboos Library for the Study of Arabic Names,' the publication's working title, aims to explain the provenance and significance of names throughout the Arab world.

Source consulted include historians and linguistics professors in Egypt and Oman, besides publications both modern and mediaeval.

"First we see if a name is originally Arabic or not, then if it is Islamic or not, where it is used most and where it is not so common," Zubair said.

"Our aim is not only to produce a reference work. It is about meaning, religion, history, social derivation and why it is occurring where it is."

In 1990 the finished work will be published in four main volumes and six minor ones. Two of the major ones will include information on the 15,000 most popular names the other two will constitute a register of the other 125,000 in popular use today.

A companion volume titled 'Famous People of Oman' will tell readers who was who in Oman over the past 1,000 years. No living person will be included, Zubair explained, to avoid controversy.

For 'famous people,' 1,030 names are already stored in the computer awaiting biographical analysis. Another 150 names will be added to the list, which is being selected from existing historical works.

Zubair confirmed that his own first name, Mohammed, is the most popular in the Arab world, followed by Ahmed, Abdullah and Ali.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

BIRTH-CONTROL PILLS SAFE FOR MANY WOMEN

QUESTION: What should I be worrying about if I want to take birth-control pills?

ANSWER: I'm not sure you should be worrying about anything — but you should know all the facts, make an intelligent decision based on those facts and stay in touch with your body to be sure your choice is a good one for you.

You've heard a lot about the dangers of birth-control pills. Birth-control pills are safe for many women; in fact, for some women, they're safer than a pregnancy. If you're younger than 35 years of age, don't smoke and are in generally good health, you probably can take take birth-control pills without problems. It is always smart, though, to see your doctor regularly and report immediately any changes you notice in your body.

Here are the conditions that may develop while on BC pills. It then would be necessary to explore alternate methods to achieve fertility control:

- Heart disease or problems with blood vessels in the brain
- Cancer
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Liver disease

If you smoke, you need to find another method of birth control, because your chances of complications (mainly blood clots) with the pill are dramatically increased.

Generally, birth-control pills are safest for young women. Women older than 40, particularly if they have other risk factors, should use birth-control pills with caution.

In selecting a birth-control pill for you, your doctor should choose the one that offers the lowest possible effective dose of estrogen combined with the least potent low dose of progestin. This offers the benefits of fertility control with the fewest side effects. Recent improvements in birth-control pills have lowered the effective doses of hormones they contain. Women vary widely in what combination of hormones they can comfortably and effectively take in a pill. Breakthrough bleeding, or vaginal spotting between periods, is a sign that dosage may not be high enough.

When you take birth-control pills, it is especially important that you see your doctor regularly. Report any headaches, blurred vision or other symptoms you may have. Common side effects that should be reported but that usually only signal a need

for dosage adjustment are breast tenderness, weight gain and nausea and vomiting.

Many studies confirm that birth-control pills even offer some protection against a type of ovarian cancer. This effect is felt for years, after even a few months of taking birth-control pills.

Birth-control pills offer you no protection against venereal disease or AIDS, so do not rely on them for this important part of your sexual health.

In years past, it often was thought that women should take breaks from the pill, allowing themselves to cycle naturally without interference about once a year for a couple of months. This is no longer thought to be of importance, and most physicians do not advise their patients to stop the pills, unless a problem is noticed.

Birth-control pills are the most effective way to control your fertility, and they are safe if used carefully. This is no different from any other drug — an informed patient is the healthiest patient. Intelligent use of birth-control pills will protect you from both pregnancy and side effects.

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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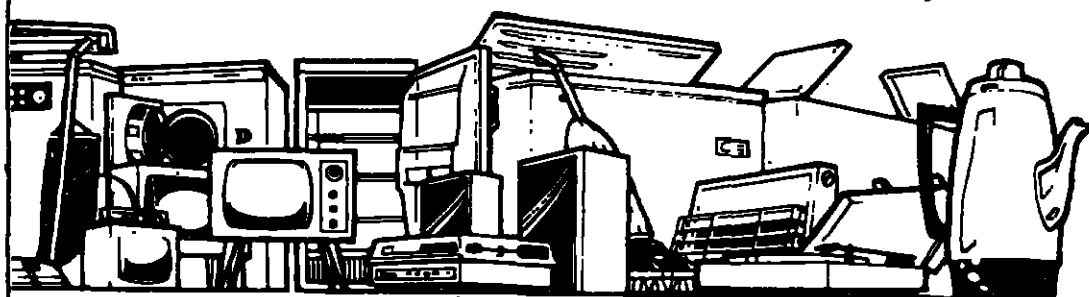
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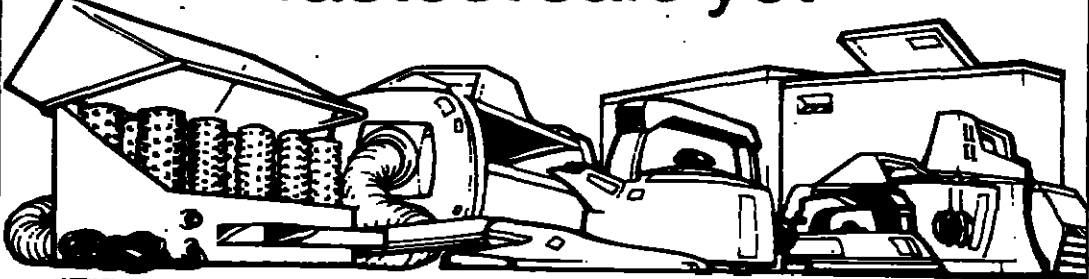
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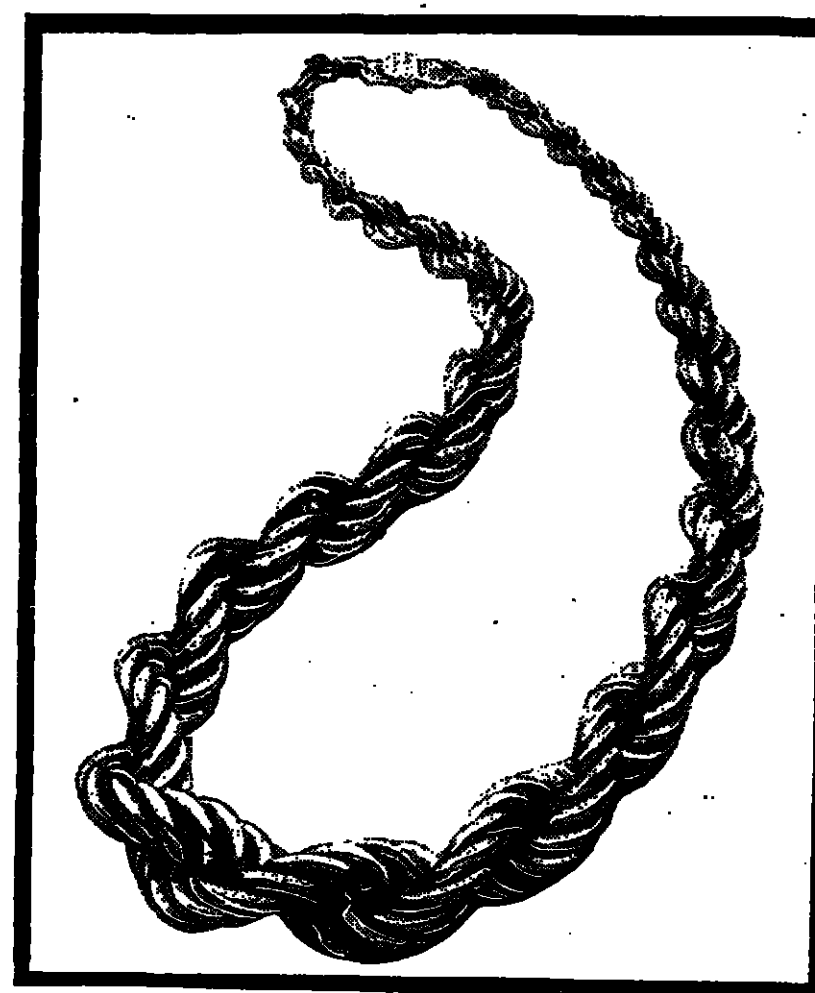
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Sukova and Reggi upset

BOCARATON, Fla., March 11. (Reuters). Chris Evert advanced, but Czechoslovakia Helena Sukova and Raffaella Reggi of Italy were upset in the third round of the \$300,000 Florida Women's Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Evert, seeded second, used her precise groundstrokes to beat American compatriot Peanut Louie Harper 6-1 6-3.

Fernandez, 22nd in the world, jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first set with two service breaks, but Sukova rallied to 4-5, as Fernandez began to miss her passing shots. Fernandez, 16 held service to close out the first set, but Sukova dominated the second, dropping only one game.

Fernandez rallied in the third set, as Sukova struggled with her normally reliable serve. She registered the crucial break in the sixth game on a Sukova double fault.

The American teenager broke again in the eighth game with two backhand passing shots for the victory.

Paradis, 82nd in the world, had trouble finding a rhythm on her serve, her most important shot, in the first set. She double-faulted three times and often missed her first serve.

Paradis won the second set by breaking Reggi three times and winning her serve in the tenth game with an ace on set point. In the third set, broke Reggi in the fifth and seventh games and was never pressed on her own serve.

Paradis said the key to her victory over Reggi was her ability to attack behind her serve in the third set.

"I had trouble with my serve and my approach shots in the first two sets because of the wind. I couldn't get my second serve strong until the third set, and then, I started coming in behind it," Paradis said.

Lendl out for at least three weeks

ORLANDO, Fla., March 11. (Reuters). Ivan Lendl has a stress fracture in his right foot, forcing his withdrawal from a \$2.1 million tennis tournament next week and keeping him from playing for at least three weeks, he said on Wednesday.

The world number one said he did not know how the injury occurred and that his doctor told him not to play tennis for three to four weeks.

Revealed Lendl, 28, said he had been treating the injury as a bruise until an X-ray on Tuesday revealed a fracture.

"I am very disappointed I cannot play," said Lendl, referring to next week's International Players Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida scheduled to begin next Monday.

Lendl also has withdrawn from the WCT finals in Dallas which are scheduled for March 28 to April 2.

He said he still expects to play in the Japan Open in Tokyo April 11-17.

Spurs outlast Everton

LONDON, March 11. (Reuters). Paul Walsh hit a spectacular first goal for Tottenham on Wednesday to dent Everton's hopes of clinching second place in the English First Division and a possible return ticket into Europe.

Walsh's overhead kick 20 minutes from the end gave Tottenham a 2-1 win and crowned a superb individual performance which fully justified manager Terry Venables' \$800,000 outlay for his services.

Mistake Walsh, displaying fine close control and deft touches, was twice denied by first half saves by Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall, but ironically it was a mistake by Southall which gave him the opportunity for his first

Ballesteros bounces back

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain, March 11. (Reuters). Severiano Ballesteros, who ended his first round with a four-putt double bogey six, bounced back in the Majorca Open Golf Championship today.

Following yesterday's torrential downpours, Ballesteros found fresh inspiration in the hot sunshine on this Mediterranean holiday island with a four-under-par 68.

Favourite That left Ballesteros the early leader in the clubhouse with a six-under-par total of 138 after beginning the second round three strokes behind overnight leaders Jose Maria Olazabal and Emilio

BECKER AND WILANDER OUT OF ORLANDO CLASSIC

Mecir tames Agassi for semifinals



Mecir: the only seeded player in semifinals

ORLANDO, Fla., March 11. (Reuters). Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia became the only seeded player left in the \$415,000 Orlando Classic men's tennis tournament yesterday by beating eighth seeded American Andre Agassi.

Mecir's 7-6 6-1 victory in the third round came on a very windy day in which both players had difficulty controlling their serves.

Advanced David Pate, who upset fellow-American Jimmy Connors in the first round, advanced to the semifinals with a 6-3 4-6 6-2 victory over sixth-seeded Martin Jaite of Argentina and will play Mecir next.

Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union beat Amos Mansdorf, who had beaten West German Boris Becker in the second round.

Agassi said the wind harmed him more than it did the second-seeded Mecir.

"It is easier for him to play in the wind because of the way he hits the ball," Agassi said.

Agassi's huge forehand is one of the most talked about strokes in tennis. It seems to have developed a cult following.

But the 17-year-old could only unleash it occasionally.

Mecir's confidence grew after winning the first set tie-breaker 8-6. Agassi tried to mix up his game in the second set by coming to the net more, but Mecir's accurate passing shots usually found their mark.

"I tried to hit hard for better control said Mecir. I did not go out and play without a risk which he did a couple of times. It was better playing in the main court because the fences (the spectator stands) helped against the wind."

Chesnokov said his victory against Mansdorf was "a bit lucky." He said he did not see the ball well.

"The conditions were terrible," Chesnokov said. "We both

played terrible tennis."

On Wednesday evening Jay Berger of the United States ousted top seed Mats Wilander of Sweden in the second round.

Berger took the first seven games against Wilander on his way to a 6-0, 7-5 victory.

"I wasn't psyched in the beginning," said Wilander, who was playing in his first tournament since winning the Australian Open. "I got going a bit in the second set, but Jay got tough and played really well."

Rallied

Mansdorf beat the fourth-seeded Becker, 6-4, 6-4 and Chesnokov rallied to eliminate the fifth-seeded Andres Gomez, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Chesnokov lost five match points before breaking Gomez in the ninth game of the third set for his victory. Becker blew a 3-0 lead in the second set of his match, double faulting twice in the final game.

Squash

Rodney defeats elder brother in French Open

PARIS, March 11. (Reuters). A bitter fight for dominance between Australian brothers Rodney and Brett Martin was the highlight of the second day of the French Open Squash Championships in Paris yesterday.

Rodney, ranked fifth in the world, beat his elder sibling 15-7 15-9 14-15 10-15 15-14, qualifying for this evening's quarter-final.

Rodney has always been in the limelight, capturing several international honours, none bigger than being the only player to have defeated world champion Jansher Khan shortly after he began his reign in November last year.

Results

1 — Jansher Khan (Pakistan) beat M. Bodimeade (Britain) 15-9 15-9 15-7.
3 — C. Dittmar (Australia) beat Zarak Jahan Khan (Pakistan) 15-9 15-12 15-2.
8 — Umar Hayat Khan (Pakistan) beat R. Hill (Australia) 15-5 15-15 15-8.

6 — C. Robertson (Australia) beat S. Hailstone (Britain) 15-10 15-15 15-7.

2 — R. Norman (New Zealand) beat 11-P. Kenyon (Britain) 15-3 15-8 15-2.

D. Harris (Britain) beat R. Eyles (Australia) 10-15 17-16 15-7 15-11.

5 — R. Martin (Australia) beat 13-B. Martin (Australia) 15-7 15-9 14-15 10-15 15-14.

2 — Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat R. Wott (New Zealand) 15-4 15-7 15-4.



Tyson (right) and Tubbs during their workout in Tokyo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tyson and Tubbs declared fit for heavyweight clash

TOKYO, March 11. (Reuters). Undisputed world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and challenger Tony Tubbs both went into secret training today after doctors declared them fit for their title match in Tokyo on March 21.

"Both fighters are in perfect condition. Their reflexes are good," Dr Takashi Suzuki of the Japan Boxing Commission said after they underwent medical check-ups at a Tokyo hospital.

Deal

The Tyson-Tubbs fight, scheduled to start at 0300 GMT, will be the champion's second defence under a \$26.5 million package deal for six title defences within a year.

The 21-year-old champion, who demolished fellow-American Larry Holmes in Atlantic City in January in his last defence, refused to predict a knockout victory.

But Tyson's trainer Kevin Rooney was convinced his charge would win by a knockout. "Tubbs will probably dance the first two rounds. But the match will turn into a slugging match after Tyson hurts him with his punches," Rooney said.

Tyson had impressed Japanese boxing critics with his speedy combinations and powerful punches during 89 rounds of starring since he arrived here last month. But Tyson's handlers decided

to bar reporters and cameramen from covering the champion's daily training from today.

"He needs concentration to built up his reflexes while cutting down his workout. He will do about four to six rounds of sparring daily until next Friday," Rooney said.

Tubbs also went into seclusion from today. But both fighters will appear once more before the press, in a public workout next Monday.

Tubbs, 29, the former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion has so far failed to impress.

The challenger, who appears overweight, seemed sloppy in his sparring. But Tubbs said he hoped to stop Tyson between the eighth and 10th rounds in the scheduled 12-round bout.

"Tyson is strong. He is a good fighter. But I'm a boxer and I will nullify his strength," Tubbs said.

Bout

The Tyson-Tubbs fight will be the third major heavyweight bout in Tokyo in the last 16 years.

Former world champion Muhammad Ali won a unanimous points win over Mac Foster in a 15-round non-title match in Tokyo on April 1, 1972, and another American, George Foreman, defended his world heavyweight title with a first round knockout against Puerto Rican challenger Joe Roman in Tokyo in August 1973.

Hamburg edge past Bayern

BONN, March 11. (Reuters). Hamburg SV, hoping to make the most of their last chance to a place in Europe next season, beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the quarter-finals of the West German Soccer Cup on Wednesday.

Headed goals from Manfred Kastl and Heinz Grunzel in the sixth and 44th minutes gave Hamburg a decisive lead before a crowd of 48,000 in their home stadium.

Jupp Keitel was superb in the

Hamburg goal but was powerless to stop a 14-metre drive from Bayern's Lothar Matthaus in the 60th minute.

Broke

The last 30 minutes were almost all Bayern, but their attacks broke down repeatedly on the solid Hamburg defence.

In the night's other tie, Werder Bremen travelled south to brush aside amateur club Viktoria Aschaffenburg 3-1 before a capacity crowd of 12,000.



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PAKISTAN DRAW MATCH AGAINST PRESIDENT'S XI

Miandad hits ton in tour opener

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 11. (Reuters). Javed Miandad scored an uncharacteristically patient century to steer Pakistan to a draw in their opening tour match against the West Indies cricket Board President's XI on Wednesday.

Miandad made 111 in 316 minutes and guided his team to safety and a second innings of 271, after they had begun the day shakily placed at 106 for four.

Dourly
This left the President's XI with the impossible winning target of 293 in 40 minutes plus the 20 mandatory overs. They were 50 for one when the match was called off with 10 overs remaining.

While Miandad batted dourly and hit a mere four boundaries, his early partners provided some enterprise. Captain Imran Khan made a breezy 44 including three fours and two sixes off all-rounder Carl Hooper, who had his revenge when Imran was caught at short leg.

Salim Yousuf hit a quick 20 but then missed a big drive and was bowled by offspinner Roger Harper who took three wickets for 60.

When Naveed Anjum was seventh out leg before to Tony Gray, Miandad required 16 for



Miandad: slammed 111 in second innings

his 100 which he reached mostly in singles thanks to a determined Tauseef Ahmed whose first run was scored after 70 minutes at the crease.

Miandad was run out shortly after tea attempting to steal a second run and the innings ended

when occasional bowler Keith Arthurton took his second first class wicket by trapping Tauseef leg before for two.

Pakistan were without opener Mudassar Nazar who was a little concussed after being hit on the helmet on the first day. Mudassar

said he would be fit for the first one-day international against the West Indies tomorrow.

The President XI also missed the services of Winston Benjamin who had an ankle strain but he too should be ready for the international.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 332 for nine declared (Salim Malik 86, Javed Miandad 63, Naveed Anjum 48, C. Hooper four for 72).
PRESIDENT'S XI first innings 311 (C. Hooper 67, W. Lewis 47, Salim Jaffer six for 67).
PAKISTAN second innings (overnight 106 for four)
Rameez Raja c Best b Harper 40
Aamer Malik c Harper b Benjamin 21
Saleem Malik c Harper b Benjamin 5
Javed Miandad run out 111
Ejaz Ahmed lbw Harper 0
Imran Khan c sub b Hooper 44
Salim Yousuf b Harper 20
Naveed Anjum lbw b Gray 13
Tauseef Ahmed lbw b Arthurton 2
Salim Jaffer not out 1
Extras (b-l lb-5 nb-8) 14
Total 271

Did not bat: Mudassar Nazar
Fall of wickets: 1-56 2-62 3-76 4-76 5-156 6-199 7-241 8-268 9-271
Bowling: Gray 18-2-32-1, Bishop 17-2-40-0 (nb-8), Benjamin 12-5-36-2, Harper 28-4-60-3, Hooper 33-2-89-

1, Arthurton 2-3-0-6-1, Best 2-0-8-0.

PRESIDENT'S XI second innings:
W. Lewis not out 29
T. Payne c Yousuf b Aamer Malik 4
C. Best not out 10
Extras (b-l lb-1 nb-2) 7
Total (one wicket) 50
Fall of wickets: 1-22
Bowling: Jaffer 4-1-14-0, Anjum 4-0-7-8 (nb-1), Aamer 5-2-15-1, Tauseef 5-2-9-0.

Meanwhile opener Gordon Greenidge has pulled out of West Indies' team for tomorrow's one-day international because of a back injury.

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) secretary Steve Camacho said yesterday that Greenidge had aggravated an old back problem during Barbados' match against the Leeward Islands in the recent Red Stripe Cup competition. His place in the 13-man squad will be taken by fellow-Barbadian Carlisle Best.

On Tuesday fast bowler Malcolm Marshall withdrew from the squad for the first four of five limited overs matches against Pakistan so that he could receive specialist treatment for a knee injury.

Camacho said yesterday that he did not know if the problem was serious enough to necessitate surgery.

Sheikh Fahd accepts responsibility

RIYADH, March 11. (Kuna). Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the president of Kuwait Football Association, said today that "inadequate attention" by sports officials in Kuwait, especially himself, was the main reason for the failure of the Kuwaiti team in the Gulf soccer tournament.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference here, Sheikh Fahd, who is also the head of the Kuwaiti soccer delegation to the tournament, said that many facilities which were not provided to the team have affected the spirits of the players.

He noted that he alone shoulders the responsibility of the failure of the team. Players, managers and specialists have no burden of this responsibility, he stressed.

He pointed out that he and other sports officials will change the team and will form another sub-team grouping those under 16 years of age to serve as the nucleus for the main team.

ACB declines invitation

ADELAIDE, Australia, March 11. (AP). The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) today declined an invitation to send a team to tour Zimbabwe next month.

The invitation to tour the African nation from April 7-28 came after the Australians withdrew from a proposed tour of Sri Lanka because of continued unrest on that Indian Ocean island.

Australia to face Pakistan in final

ADELAIDE, Australia, March 11. (Reuters). Brett Williams hit 57 today as Australia's under 19 cricket side cruised to a seven wicket victory over England to clinch a place in the World Youth Cup final against Pakistan on Sunday.

England looked set for a large total but lost five batsmen through run-outs and managed only 194 from their 50 overs.

The Australians, set up by a sparkling 79-run opening partnership by Williams and Darren Playle, who was run out for 36, then coasted to victory in the 46th over.

Australia finished on 196 for three after 45.2 overs with skipper Geoff Parker 39 not out and Lachlan Ferguson unbeaten on 40.

England's only consolation

came in the performance of Mark Alleyne, who hit 56 runs in two hours at the crease and then captured one for 30 from his 10 overs.

Alleyne, the only English bowler to take a wicket, was named Player of the Match. England coach, Bob Cottam, a former Test paceman, said poor batting had let his side's chances of victory slip away.

"Our batting through the whole tour just hasn't clicked," Cottam said. "Today we started batting as well as we can, but we threatened without finishing it off."

"But full marks to the Australians, they fought back and deserved to win."

Scores: England 194 off 50 overs (Mark Alleyne 56). Australia 196 for three off 45.2 overs

Zaire aim to relive past glory

KINSHASA, March 11. (Reuters). Zaire, after a long absence from the elite ranks of African soccer, are determined to use the Africa Nations Cup finals in Morocco as a launching pad for a new era of greatness.

The Leopards, thrown into the lions' den against host nation Morocco for the tournament opener on Sunday, will field a mixed bag of amateurs and professionals.

The team may be young and inexperienced at this level of competition but they are conscious of their mission — to claw Zaire to victory and end more than a decade in a soccer wilderness.

Zaire, never the same since Yugoslavia drubbed them 9-0 in

the 1974 World Cup finals, have a new breed of strong young players and West German coach Otto Pfister has instilled defensive discipline into them — too much, some critics say.

The play-it-safe approach might not be pretty to watch but it got results in the qualifying rounds against Angola and Senegal. The Zaireans took command of the midfield in the four games, scoring only three goals.

Formation

With no recognised wingers in his side, Pfister is likely to opt for a 4-5-1 or a 4-4-2 formation against Morocco, the lions of the Atlas, in Casablanca.

He will rely on his midfielders to bolster a front line which can

run amok if let loose. Professional players of the calibre of Ngoy Kabongo and Ndalango Mobati are capable of penetrating any defence.

Centre-forward Kabongo was only a boy of 12 when Zaire qualified for the World Cup finals in West Germany in 1974 and became African champions the same year.

His powerful shooting, prowess in the air and penetrating running are now assets for French Second Division club Lyon. He has already scored about a dozen goals for them this season.

Anwar's innings ended when West Indies captain Brian Lara brought off a diving catch at square leg off the bowling of Samuel Skeete in the 36th over.

West Indies earlier recovered from an uncertain start — they were 26 for two — on the strength of a third-wicket stand of exactly 100 between James Adams and Lara.

Adams was top scorer with 65 from 118 deliveries — he also took two for 26 from five overs with his left-arm spin — and Lara made 42.

Scores: West Indies 203 for eight in 50 overs (James Adams 65, Brian Lara 42, Shakeel Khan two for 37). Pakistan 204 for eight in 47.5 overs (Shahid Anwar 76, Zahoor Elahi 43, Adams two for 26, Rajindra Dhanraj two for 30).

30 killed in stadium collapse

VALLETTA, Malta, March 11. (UPI). Up to 30 soccer fans were believed killed and many injured when a stand collapsed during a soccer match in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, Maltese newspapers said today.

The press reports said the disaster happened during a soccer match yesterday afternoon between the national teams of Libya and Malta.

"Reports reaching Malta late last night said several people were injured," the Times of Malta said. "Other reports said there were several dead under the rubble."

Hamed, Rakad and Jamila shine at Honda Festival

THE Honda Showjumping Festival, held at Kuwait's Hunting and Equestrian Club on Thursday, featured the Honda Speed, Honda Derby and a Riding and Driving contests. Hamed Shehab won the first event, Rakad Al Zafri the second and Jamila Al Mutawa triumphed in the third.

The Honda Speed contest pitted 21 horses and 17 riders against a 587 metre course with 13 120 cm high by 150 cm wide obstacles. The results were as follows:

1. Broadway, ridden by Hamed Shehab (Police Federation), 66.84 seconds, no faults.
2. Rockford, Salwa Al Qadi (Hunting and Equestrian), 72.17 seconds, no faults.
3. Pharaoh, Ala Hatab (Hunting and Equestrian), 78.10 seconds, no faults.
4. Lead Gray, Zaal Al Rashid (Police Federation), 78.19 seconds, no faults.
5. Brazilian Coffee, Nader Ibrahim (Hunting and Equestrian), 78.85 seconds, no faults.
6. Lewis, Rakad Al Zafri (Military), 79.53 seconds, three faults.

In the Honda Derby 17 horses and 14 riders covered a 680 metre, 19 obstacle course with the following results:

1. Late Advantage, Rakad Al Zafri (Military), 35.88 seconds, four faults.
2. Balandine, Nadia Al Mutawa (Hunting and Equestrian), 38.44 seconds, four faults.
3. Exit, Tareq Shuaib (Hunting and Equestrian), 119.03 seconds.
4. Mr Moses, Zaal Al Rashid (Police Federation), 97.92



Jamila (left) and her driving partner display their trophy.



Nadia about to tackle an obstacle.

course, jumping seven 120 cm high obstacles and then made a dive for the waiting car with a driver ready to complete the compulsory distance.

- The results were as follows:
1. Vandango, Jamila Al Mutawa (Hunting and Equestrian), 85.89 seconds.
2. Lee Brouke, Hamad Al



One of the riders moves into the waiting car.



An unidentified rider goes over an obstacle.

Dabbous (Hunting and Equestrian), 86.40 seconds.

3. Pharaoh, Ala Hatab (Hunting and Equestrian), 87.89 seconds.
4. Balandine, Nadia Al Mutawa (Hunting and Equestrian), 88.52 seconds.
5. Broadway Flax, Hamed Shehab (Police Federation), 95.64 seconds.
6. Hoden Al Joullet Bosiel (Hunting and Equestrian), 96.05.

At the conclusion of the festival the Honda Company owner Sulaiman Hamad Al Qadi and General Manager Omar Sulaiman Al Qadi presented prizes and cups to the winners.

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ARAB TIMES Published by Dr. Al-Sayid	Editor in Chief Ahmed Al-Jarrah	Editorial Officer Airport Road, Shuwaikh. P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait.	Telex: 22332 KT	Telephones: 4813566 (main lines)	Advertising: 4818326/7	Annual Subscriptions Individuals: KD 100 Companies: KD 200 Departments: KD 100 (Annual charges include postage and insurance)
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